



THE  
H I S T O R Y  
OF  
JEMMY AND JENNY JESSAMY.

VOLUME THE SECOND,

CHAP. I.

DISCOVERS SOMETHING WHICH MAY SERVE TO PROVE THAT, THOUGH LOVE IS THE ORIGINAL SOURCE FROM WHICH JEALOUSY IS DERIVED, YET THE LATTER OF THESE PASSIONS IS THE MOST DIFFICULT OF THE TWO TO BE CONCEALED, AND ALSO LESS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF REASON.



HERE are so many secret windings, such obscure recesses, in the human mind, that it is very difficult, if not wholly impossible, for speculation to arrive at the real spring or first mover of any action whatsoever. How, indeed, should it be otherwise, as the most virtuous and the most vicious propensities of nature are frequently, in a more or less degree, lodged and blended together in the same composition, and both equally under the influence of a thousand different passions, which disguise and vary the face of their operations so as not to be distinguished even by the persons themselves? It has already been observed, that there were some peculiarities in the humour and conduct of Lady Speck, which she had

policy and prudence enough to conceal entirely from the world; and, though not the most intimate of her acquaintance, not even her sister, could ever penetrate into the secret motives of her behaviour, which, to them, seemed frequently pretty strange, it is fit the reader should not be denied the satisfaction, at least as far as the above-mentioned promises will admit. As her ladyship had found very little happiness in marriage, she had been too much rejoiced at being released from that bondage by the death of her husband ever to think of entering into the same state a second time; but, having observed that this was commonly the profession of all widows, and as commonly ridiculed by those who heard it, she forbore making any mention of her resolution in this point.

She had very little vanity in her composition, but loved a variety of company: she was pleased to find herself continually surrounded by a crowd of gentlemen; but had been equally, if not more so, if they had visited her on any other score than that of courtship. She behaved to each of them so much alike, that jealousy was a thing unknown among these rivals; and, as none of them had any great cause to hope, so likewise none of them thought he had cause to despair of being one day the happy man: and her youth, her

her beauty, her wit, her fortune, made her appear too valuable a prize not to persevere in the pursuit of.

Thus easy, thus happy in herself, and delightful to all that saw her, did she live, and reign the general toast and admiration of the town; when Celandine arrived from his travels, full-fraught with all those superficial accomplishments so enchanting to the unthinking part of the fair-sex. What attracts the eye is too apt to have an influence over the heart: his agreeable person, his gaudy equipage, and the shew he made, dazzled the senses of even those who most affected to be thought wits; he was the theme of every tea-table, and the chief object for whom the arts of the toilette were employed. Lady Speck had heard much of him before she saw him; but he was soon introduced to her acquaintance by a lady who frequently visited her, and had always spoke wonders in his praise. Whether it were that she was prepossessed with the good opinion she found others had of him, or whether it was to himself alone he was indebted for the impression he had made on her, is uncertain; but nothing can be more true than that, at first sight, she felt for him what she had never done for any man after whole years of assiduity.

It is also altogether as impossible to determine if it was by any kind looks he perceived in her towards him, or by the great confidence he had in his own merits, that he was emboldened to declare himself her lover; it was, however, either to the one or to the other that she owed the triumph of this new conquest; and he had not made her many visits before she was confirmed in it by the most violent protestations that zongue could utter. It seemed, notwithstanding, extremely strange to her, that, amidst all the testimonies he endeavoured to give her of his love, he never once mentioned marriage; but, on the contrary, would frequently, in her presence, ridicule the institution; say it was a clog upon inclinations, and only fit to link two people together who had no notion of the true joys of love, or of living politely in the world. He often had the impudence even to repeat to her, in justification of his prophane position, all the lines he could remember from any of the poets who had ex-

ercised their talents in satirizing that sacred ceremony; particularly these of Mr. Dryden—

- ‘ Marriage, thou curse of love, and snare of life!  
 ‘ That first debas’d a mistress to a wife!  
 ‘ Love, like a scene, at distance should appear;  
 ‘ But marriage views the gross-daub’d landscape near.  
 ‘ Love’s nauseous cure! thou cloy’st whom thou should’st please;  
 ‘ And, when that’s cured, then thou art the disease!  
 ‘ When hearts are loose, thy chain our bodies ties;  
 ‘ Love couples friends, but marriage enemies!’

But his behaviour on this score gave her not the least disgust towards him: she was herself an enemy to marriage; and besides, his estate, though large, was not an equivalent for that she was in possession of; nor was any part of his character such as she thought becoming a man whom she would make a husband of. She, nevertheless, loved him, nor took any pains to repel the kindness which every day grew stronger for him in her heart: she was amused with his conversation, delighted with his addresses, looked on him as a pretty play-thing, charming toy! which it would be doing too great a violence to her humour to throw away.

All this will, doubtless, give the reader no very favourable idea of her virtue; but we will suppose it was only a Platonick liking she had for him: how far, indeed, the dangerous liberties she allowed herself to take with him might have carried her, if they had been continued much longer, no one can pretend to say. She was not, however, so much lost in the tender folly she indulged, as not to be perfectly sensible that the manner in which she conversed with Celandine could not, if known to the world, but occasion a great deal of discourse, little to the advantage of her reputation; and that it behoved her, above all things, to keep this secret of her soul from taking air: to do this, she put in practice all the arts that a just fear of censure could inspire her with. When Celandine was present with other company, she affected to railly and turn into bagatelle every thing he said or did; and, when he was absent, to ridicule those vanities and sopperies which



which she had understanding enough to see in him, though not, in reality, to condemn him for. She not only treated those gentlemen who before made their addresses to her with a greater show of favour than she had been accustomed to do, but also encouraged every new offer of that kind that was presented to her: and this conduct proved so effectual for the purpose she intended it, that no one person suspected Celandine was among the number of her lovers, much less that he was the darling favourite of her bosom.

Being in this situation, it is easy to conceive what racks of mind she must sustain on the account that had been just given by Mrs. M——: to be told that Celandine had an amour, and to hear it averred by the very woman who had been her rival, was a mere trifle in comparison with what followed. That he was found in the close arbour with Jenny was the thing that stung her to the quick, when she remembered that Celandine had met herself and sister in the walks; and how, instead of squireing them, as usual, he had only made a slight compliment, and abruptly left them; and that, as Jenny had excused herself from going out on account of some letters she said she had to write, it appeared plainly to her that he went not from the walks but with a design of going to Jenny; that she staid not at home but in expectation of his coming, and the appointment was previously agreed upon between them.

Most women have naturally so good an opinion of themselves as not to believe easily that the man who has once loved them can transfer his affections to another, without some very extraordinary arts put in practice for that purpose by the new object. Lady Speck thought herself as handsome as Jenny; and therefore concluded, that the amorous inclination which Celandine had all at once testified for that young lady could be owing to nothing but some advances made to him on her part.

How unjust and how cruel a passion is that of jealousy! It destroys all the nobler principles of the soul; it erases thence all the ideas of virtue, religion, and morality; it makes us not only condemn the innocent, and acquit the guilty, but also inspires us with the most savage and inhuman sentiments.

Lady Speck now hated her fair friend more than ever she had loved her: her beauty, her wit, all those accomplishments which had excited her esteem, rendered her now the object of her aversion. She was almost tempted to wish Mrs. M—— had perpetrated her outrageous design, if not to the destruction of her life, yet to the defacing of those charms which had triumphed over her in the heart of Celandine; and was little less angry with him for having prevented the fatal blow aimed against her rival, than she was for his falsehood to herself.

Of all the various agitations that by turns convulse and rend the human heart, there are none which instigate to more pernicious purposes, or bring on, if continued, more disastrous consequences; but the flame, however violent it may flash for the present, can have no long existence in a mind not wholly divested of all good-nature and generosity; cooler and more reasonable sentiments, on a little reflection, soon abated the force of those turbulent emotions which had taken possession of this lady's bosom, but as yet were not powerful enough to suppress them entirely: what effects followed, either of the one or the other, will hereafter appear; but the conflict was for some time interrupted by some company coming in, whom Lady Speck was obliged to go down to receive, as they were more her guests than her sister's, and altogether strangers to Jenny.

## CHAP. II.

CONTAINS A FARTHER CONFIRMATION OF THE POSITION ADVANCED IN THE PRECEDING CHAPTER, AND ALSO SOME OTHER PARTICULARS EXCITING THE CURIOSITY OF THE READER.

LADY Speck assumed a countenance as serene as possible, to entertain, with her usual politeness, the persons who came to visit her; but, in spite of all her endeavours to appear entirely easy, she could not keep herself from darting such ill-natured glances on Jenny, whenever she looked towards her, as must have been taken notice of by that young lady, if she had not been

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too much engrossed by her own thoughts to be capable of penetrating into those of another.

The company stayed so late, that the instant they were gone, the ladies retired to their respective chambers. Jenny, who had her mind no less employed than Lady Speck, with the adventures of the day, was equally pleased to be alone, and indulge meditation on what had passed. The history of Mrs. M— had dwelt very much upon her mind; but what made the most deep impression, was that part of it wherein she related the first motive which occasioned her fall at once from happiness and from virtue, and consequently drew on her all those dreadful misfortunes with which at present she was encompassed.

I believe the reader will easily remember, as the thing is of a pretty particular nature, how that unhappy woman, in order to revive those ardours of affection in her husband which she imagined were beginning to decay, had recourse to the dangerous stratagem of giving him a rival; and also how by coquetting with Celandine, and treating him with a shew of liking, the counterfeited flame kindled by degrees into a real one, and ended at length in her utter ruin and confusion.

The notions Jenny had of honour and generosity were too refined and delicate not to make her look with the utmost contempt on all kinds of artifice, on what pretences soever they were put in practice: this conduct of Mrs. M—'s, though, considering what ensued, the least guilty part of her character, seemed to her so highly criminal, as well as weak and mean, that she could not help thinking it worthy of all the punishment it met with. 'How is it possible,' cried she within herself, 'that a woman who truly loves virtue can be capable of putting on an appearance so much the reverse of it? What! if at that time she had no intention of gratifying the amorous inclinations of the man she sported with, to encourage them in him was a manifest violation, not only of modesty, but likewise of religion, honour, and those solemn obligations which she had entered into. Besides,' continued she, 'this wretched creature seems not to want sense enough to know the heinousness of the fault she was guilty of, even in this first step to

perdition; yet she ran boldly into it, and absolved herself on account of the good end she proposed by it, to regain the affections of her husband. Oh, how ridiculous was such an attempt for doing so! as if any man of common reason would love his wife the better for suspecting she was about to commit the worst and most shameful action a woman can be guilty of! I have seen some young ladies,' went she still on, 'that have made use of these little tricks to inspire jealousy in their lovers; either to make trial of their constancy, or shew their own power by giving pain: this is certainly silly as well as cruel; but what is no more than vanity and folly in them, is downright wickedness in a married woman.'

Thus did she pass some time in censuring the conduct of Mrs. M—; but as she was of that happy turn of mind to convert every thing which she either saw or heard of to her own advantage, and to make fresh improvements in herself by the misbehaviour of others, her reflections carried her yet farther, and remembrance presented her with an incident which happened long before she had the power of judging, but which she had heard much discourse of in her extreme youth. It was this.

A person of great distinction happened to be married to a lady very young and beautiful; she was a celebrated wit without being wise, and had the most romantick turn of mind; fancying herself a Statyra, she expected her husband should approach her with the obsequiousness of an Oroondates: he was little versed in histories of this nature; and though he loved her very well, treated her as a mere woman: the epithets of Angel and Goddess were strangers to his mouth; and those he usually saluted her with, were plain 'Madam,' or 'My Dear.' This disgusted her even in the first days of their marriage; she looked on such a behaviour as an indignity to her charms; her heart reproached the indelicacy of his manners, and half despised him for his want of taste; nor did her tongue refrain itself from testifying how much she was dissatisfied at every thing he said or did.

The fashion in which he found himself used by her, gave him some disquiet at first; but it lasted not long: though a man of sense, he was naturally indolent

lent to an excess; he loved his ease too well to part with it on any consideration whatever; he never thought any thing worth attempting the pursuit of which was likely to be attended with difficulty; and as he had never taken the pains to examine what it was that his wife expected from him, so he would have been equally negligent in gratifying her humour, if he had been better acquainted with it.

Their way of living together grew every day still worse and worse: as her haughty fullness increased, his carelessness of it increased in proportion. All the love they once had for each other turned into a mutual indifference, or rather a mutual aversion: she sought the food for her vanity among those who were of a disposition to indulge it; and she found not a few to whom the glory of pleasing a lady of her beauty, birth, and accomplishments, did not seem well worth all the flatteries they could address her with; the husband, in the mean time, made himself not wretched on account of the gallantries she received, but fled for consolation to the arms of a more obliging and endearing fair.

They continued to live together, however, in the same house; but slept not in the same bed, nor eat at the same table, except for decency sake when company was there, before whom they always behaved to each other with the greatest good manners and politeness imaginable. But this was a constraint which neither of them could long support; they parted by consent; after which her amours became the general topic of conversation; till, shunned by all her kindred, despised by her acquaintance, and slighted by those for whose sake she had sacrificed her reputation, she became sensible of her follies, and sought a reconciliation with her husband: but all her endeavours for that purpose were in vain; she hated a place where she no longer had either friends or admirers, and went a voluntary exile into foreign parts, where grief and remorse soon put an end to her life.

This incident threw Jenny into the most serious contemplations on the human system: the many observations she had made, convinced her that vanity was in a more or less degree inherent to the whole species; and that men as well as women were not exempt from it; and immediately recollecting some passages

she had seen which demonstrated this truth—'Good God!' cried she, 'how can any one be so fond of this idol frame, this poor machine, liable to be withered by every inclement blast that issues from the firmament! Let the proud of heart read Gulliver's Voyages to the Houhynims, and some other pieces of the same excellent author, and they will see and be ashamed to admire a body which requires such means to be sustained. No,' continued she, 'it is the mind which ought to be the chief object of our attention; it is there alone we are either beautiful or deformed; and the pains we take to ornament and embellish that nobler part of us will not be thrown away.'

She was so taken up with these philosophick reflections, that she went not to bed till the beams of Aurora darting through the window-curtains, reminded her how much she had lost of the time commonly allotted for repose. It was somewhat more late than ordinary when she rose the next morning: on her coming down stairs, she found the ladies already in the room where they always breakfasted; and guessing, by some circumstances, that she had made them wait, was beginning to apologize for her tardiness.

'Indeed, my dear,' cried Miss Wingman, interrupting her, 'we were afraid you were not well, and were just going to send to your chamber: but pray,' continued she very gaily, 'let me examine your countenance, and see if that will tell me whether you are quite got over the fright that terrible woman put you into yesterday.'

Jenny was about to make some answer; but Lady Speck, who could not forgive her for the part she bore in that adventure, took up the word before the other had time to open her mouth. 'The fright was of little consequence,' said she with an air which had something of derision in it, 'as she was delivered from the danger before she could have any apprehensions of it: but there were other particulars that happened afterwards, which perhaps were of a yet more disagreeable nature, and might make a deeper impression.' These words, and the tone in which they were spoke, gave Jenny an infinity of surprise; but without pausing to form any conjecture on the matter—'You will

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'pardon me, Madam,' cried she, innocently, 'if I am not able to comprehend your ladyship's meaning. I know of no accident that happened afterwards, or, indeed, in which I had the least concern.'

'How weak is it,' replied Lady Speck, 'in people to endeavour to conceal a passion, which, in spite of all they can do, will break out in every look and gesture! I pity you from my soul; and, had I sooner known the situation of your heart, would have contrived some way or other to have prevented Mrs. M—— from being quite so open in her narrative: it must certainly be a very great shock to you to hear some passages she related; but, alas! I was entirely ignorant that Celandine loved you, or that you loved Celandine; and little suspected that it was for his sake you so resolutely rejected the offers of Sir Robert Manley.'

'I should be sorry, Madam,' replied Jenny very disdainfully, 'that your ladyship, or any one else, should have so contemptible an opinion of my judgment. I know but little of the gentlemen, yet know enough to make a just distinction between them; and, were my hand and heart at my disposal, I should not hesitate one moment to, which of them I should give the preference.'

'How cunning now you think you are!' said Lady Speck with an affected laugh: 'you speak the truth, but avoid mentioning the name: I will, however, do it for you, and answer in somewhat like the poet's words:

'Tis Celandine your heart would leap to meet,  
While Manley lay expiring at your feet.'

Scarce had Jenny the power to restrain her passion within the bounds of decency, on finding Lady Speck persisted in so injurious an accusation. Scorn and anger overwhelmed her soul, tears gushed from her eyes; and, rising hastily from her seat—'I will not imagine, Madam,' said she, 'that you are really in earnest in supposing such a thing; but the jest is of such a nature, as I do not think it becomes me to hear the continuance of.' In speaking these words she was about to quit the room; but Miss Wingman, who had

been a good deal astonished at what her sister had said, ran and pulled her back: but all her persuasions would have been ineffectual to have detained her, if Lady Speck, having vented her ill-humour, and now repenting she had gone so far, had not added her entreaties.

'My dear creature,' cried she, 'I had not the least design to affront you; I only meant to railly you a little on your staying at home, when so fine a day called every body to the walks.'—'I should have deserved it, Madam,' answered she, 'if I had denied myself the pleasure of attending your ladyship on any other motive than what I really did: but I assure you I wrote no less than five letters, as your own man can witness, whom, my own being out of the way, I took the liberty to send with them to the post-office.'—'I believe it,' said Lady Speck; 'I believe it; and heartily ask your pardon.' She was going to add something more by the way of reparation for the vexation she had given that young lady, when she was prevented by her woman; who having been sent to a milliner's for some things she wanted, came running into the room with a countenance as confused and wild as if she had met some spectre or apparition in her way.

'Oh, Madam!' cried she to her lady, 'I have the strangest thing to tell you, the oddest accident; to be sure; I was never so much surprized in all my life!'—'Pr'ythee, at what?' demanded Lady Speck. 'Lord, Madam!' returned she, 'I could not have thought such a thing of two such civil, well-behaved, gentlemen.'—'What gentlemen?' said Lady Speck: 'explain the mystery at once, and do not keep us in suspense by your unreasonable exclamations.'—'Lord, Madam!' replied she, 'your ladyship will wonder when you know all, as well as I: for my own part, I was so confounded, that I scarce know which way I got home. Just as I was stepping into the milliner's, bless me! I shall never forget it; but I will tell your ladyship as fast as I can: just as I was going into the shop, as I was saying, I heard a great noise in the street, and the sound of several men's voices crying out—"Bring them along, bring them along!" I turned about, as any one would do, out of mere



'mere curiosity; and, would your ladyship believe it possible? who should I see but Mr. Lovegrove and Mr. Celandine in the hands of I know not how many rough fellows, and followed by a huge crowd of all sorts of people! I fancy they had been fighting, for both their swords were drawn, and carried by one of the men that had hold of Mr. Lovegrove. I cannot directly say how that matter was; but there was a strange confused noise among the mob: one cried, it was a sad thing that such broils should happen; and another, that it would be a great prejudice to the town: and all I could hear distinctly was, that they were going to carry the gentlemen before a justice of peace.'

All the ladies were very much concerned at hearing this intelligence; but Lady Speck seemed the most affected with it; nor did the others at all wonder at her being so, as Mr. Lovegrove was her declared admirer, and was allowed by all that knew him to deserve more of her favour than he had as yet experienced.

They were all extremely impatient to know both the occasion and the consequence of this affair; and Lady Speck's woman either having not enquired, or not been able to learn, to what magistrate the gentlemen were carried, footmen were immediately dispatched to every quarter of the town, in hopes of bringing home that information, which the reader shall presently be made acquainted with.

### C H A P. III.

COMPLEATS THE CHARACTER OF A MODERN FINE GENTLEMAN, OR A PRETTY FELLOW FOR THE LADIES.

**I** Believe there are none into whose hands these volumes shall happen to fall, at least if they consider the story of Mrs. M—— with any attention, but will easily perceive there was enough in it to give a very great alarm to a man so much enamoured as Mr. Lovegrove.

He had observed, that for some time before, as well as since their coming down to Bath, Celandine had been a constant dangler after Lady Speck.

Love and jealousy are quick-fighted passions: he thought also, that though she ridiculed and laughed at his affluities, she was not so much displeased with them as she ought to have been. This had frequently given him some uneasy apprehensions: but as there were several other gentlemen of worth and honour who made their addresses to Lady Speck, as well as himself; and she had never given him any assurance of distinguishing him above his competitors; he thought it would be too presuming in him to call her ladyship's conduct in question; especially in regard to a man who did not publicly profess himself her lover, and whose person, character, and behaviour, she always affected to despise.

But now to be told, that he had impudently boasted his coming down to Bath was on the invitation of a woman of quality, from whom he gave some hints of having received very extraordinary favours; and to find that the person to whom he said this had any reason to guess the woman of quality he mentioned was no other than Lady Speck; was such a shocking corroboration of his former suspicions, as fired him with the extremest rage.

Whether Lady Speck had in reality granted any favours to Celandine, or whether it was his own idleness alone which had made him talk in the manner he had done, this generous lover thought it would become him to chastise the insolence of such a braggadocio: but in what manner he should do so very much perplexed him; to send him a challenge on this account he feared would make too great a noise, and consequently displease the lady whose honour he meant to defend. After much debating within himself, an expedient came into his mind, which he immediately put in execution. He found by what he had heard Jenny say to Mrs. M——, that Celandine had taken the liberty to treat that young lady in a manner very unworthy of her character. This seemed to him a good pretence for covering the face of his design; and therefore resolved to make her quarrel appear as the chief motive of his resentment, touching only obliquely on that he had conceived against him in regard to Lady Speck.

Having well considered on all the consequences that might probably at-

tend the step he was about to take, and fully determined with himself to pursue it, he wrote to Celandine, that same evening, in the following terms—

‘ TO R. CELANDINE, ESQ.

‘ SIR,  
‘ YOU have affronted a young lady of distinguished merit, at present under the protection of the woman I adore; and, it is said, have given room for suspicion of your having also entertained thoughts of herself altogether unbecoming you: I think it therefore a duty incumbent on me to demand that satisfaction which every gentleman has a right to expect, when injured in the persons of those he professes to esteem. I shall be glad to see you to-morrow morning about six, in the first field at the end of the Walks, where I flatter myself you will not long suffer yourself to be waited for by yours,

‘ E. LOVEGROVE.

‘ P. S. I shall come alone, for I see no need that any friends, either of yours or mine, should be involved in this dispute.’

This billet he sent by one of his servants; who, after staying a considerable time, returned with an answer containing these lines—

‘ TO E. LOVEGROVE, ESQ.

‘ SIR,  
‘ I Am sorry you should desire any thing of me which suits not my humour to comply with: Lady Speck and Miss Jessamy are both of them very fine women; but, upon my soul, I think neither of them, or any other woman, worth drawing my sword for; so must desire you will excuse my refusing to meet you on this score; on any other you may command yours,

‘ R. CELANDINE.’

It would be difficult to decide, whether anger or contempt was the most predominant passion in the mind of Mr. Lovegrove on reading the above: he resolved, however, not to suffer the insolence of that bad man to go unpunished;

but went very early the next morning to his lodgings, to force from him the satisfaction he required; or, still persisting to refuse it, to give him such treatment as men are ordinarily accustomed to receive after behaving in the manner he had done.

As he was going towards the house, he perceived, while at some distance, a post-chaise waiting at the door; and before he could well reach it, saw Celandine just ready to step in: on this he sprung forward with all the speed he could, and, catching Celandine by the arm—‘ Stay, Sir!’ cried he; ‘ you must not think to leave this town without making some atonement for your behaviour in it.’

‘ Sir,’ replied the other, with some hesitation in his voice, ‘ I give an account of my actions to no man, nor has any man a right to inspect into them.’—‘ Every man of honour has a right to inspect the actions of a villain!’ rejoined Mr. Lovegrove fiercely; ‘ and if you are guilty of such as you have neither justice to acknowledge, nor the courage to defend, you know the recompense you are to expect.’

‘ I dare fight!’ said Celandine; and immediately drew his sword, as did Mr. Lovegrove his at the same time; but both were prevented by a great posse of people, who in an instant were gathered about them, drawn thither by the outcries of Celandine’s servants, the postilion, and the people of the house, who were come to the door to take leave of their lodger; and it was the expectation of this reasonable interruption which doubtless inspired the antagonist of Mr. Lovegrove with so much boldness on a sudden.

They had scarce time to make one push before they were disarmed by the populace; and a constable, who lived hard by, coming to interpose his authority to put an end to the fray, took possession of both their swords, and told them they must give him leave to conduct them to a magistrate: they readily submitted; and were followed by a continually-increasing crowd, as Lady Speck’s woman had described.

They soon arrived at the house of a gentleman in the commission of the peace, who happened to be a person of great worth and honour. Celandine exhibited a most piteous complaint against his adversary; first, for sending him

him a challenge to fight on account of things which he said he knew nothing of; and afterwards for assailing him in the streets, putting a stop to his journey, and occasioning a riot and disturbance in the town. Mr. Lovegrove was entirely silent till the other had left off speaking, and then related the whole which had passed between them, naturally as it was. The magistrate could scarce forbear smiling, but desired to see both the letters; on which Celandine produced the challenge; but Mr. Lovegrove being unwilling to expose the names of the ladies, which the other had indiscreetly mentioned in his answer, said he had it not about him, and believed he had lost it.

After having heard both parties, the worshipful gentleman began to expatiate, in terms besitting his character, on the bad custom of duelling: he said, that though the too frequent practice of it had rendered it not dishonourable, yet it was directly contrary to the rules both of religion and morality, and to the laws of society as well as those of the land: after which he recommended to them, and even exacted their mutual promise, to regard each other from that time forward, not as enemies, if they could not do so as friends.

‘I will not take his word, Sir,’ cried Celandine hastily; ‘I am convinced he has malice against me in his heart; I go in danger of my life by him; and desire I may be admitted to make oath of it, and that he may be bound over.’ This could not be refused, and the book was immediately presented to him. ‘Are you, Sir, of the same way of thinking too?’ said the justice to Mr. Lovegrove. ‘No, upon honour, Sir!’ replied he; ‘I am not under the least apprehensions on the score of this gentleman: and dare answer for him, that if there was as little danger in his tongue as there is to be feared from his sword, he would be the most unhurtful creature breathing.’

It was with difficulty the justice restrained himself from laughing; but preserved as much an air of gravity as he could on the occasion. ‘Well, then, Sir,’ said he, ‘I am compelled, by the duties of my office, to discharge your adversary, and oblige you to give security for your future behaviour towards him.’

On this, Celandine thanked him, and took his leave. Several of the crowd, who had burst into the hall, followed him with a thousand scurrilous jests and sneers at his cowardice; but he was too much a man of peace to take any notice of what they said; and, making what haste he could to the chaise, which still waited for him, set out for London, probably wishing he had not left it to come down to Bath.

Mr. Lovegrove sent for Lord Huntley and Sir Robert Manley, who immediately came; and all the little formalities of this affair being over, and settled to the satisfaction of the gentleman before whom they were, he threw off the magistrate, and assumed a character more natural to him, that of a man perfectly well-bred and complaisant: he was very pleasant with them on the conduct of Celandine; compelled them to stay breakfast with him, and entertained them as elegantly as such a repast would admit of.

#### CHAP. IV.

RELATES SOME PASSAGES SUBSEQUENT TO THE PRECEDING ADVENTURE.

AFTER the gentlemen had quitted the justice’s house, each repaired to his respective lodging, in order to dress for the remainder of the day; but meeting again at the coffee-house, it was agreed to adjourn from thence to make a morning-visit to Lady Speck and her fair companions, without mentioning a word of what had happened; Mr. Lovegrove being desirous that the whole affair should be kept a secret from them, unless chance should by any way make a discovery of it to them.

Those ladies were all this while in a good deal of uneasiness: the servants who had been sent out for intelligence were all returned, without being able to bring any thing material for the satisfaction of their curiosity. Miss Wingman and Jenny had both of them a very great regard for Mr. Lovegrove; the one, as having known him a considerable time; and the other, as having perceived in him many indications of his being a man truly worthy of esteem.

But Lady Speck had her own reasons

sons for being much more perplexed than either of them could be: she had an high esteem for Mr. Lovegrove on account of the amiable qualifications he was possessed of, and the long and respectful court he had made to her. The caprice of her destiny had made her find something in the person of Celandine which had attracted but too much of the more tender inclinations of her heart; and to think that any danger threatened either of these gentlemen was an extreme trouble to her.

But what touched her yet the more deeply, was the concern she had for her own reputation: she doubted not but that the quarrel between them was on her score; nor, indeed, could she well assign any other probable motive for it; especially when she reflected that Mr. Lovegrove, on hearing Mrs. M— say that Celandine had come to Bath on the invitation of a woman of quality, had given her not only some looks, but also several hints, that he entertained the most jealous apprehensions that herself was the woman of quality whose favours that sex had so impudently boasted of. She had good reason, therefore, to be fearful that an affair of this nature might occasion her name to be brought in question, and perhaps, too, not in the most honourable fashion.

Suspicion is a kind of magnifying-glass, which represents whatever ill we dread in it's most formidable shape. This poor lady figured to herself a thousand distracting images; and, though she spoke but little, gave such visible demonstration of her inward disorders as could not but be taken notice of both by Jenny and Miss Wingman. As neither of these young ladies as yet had ever harboured the least suspicion of her having a particular regard for any man, much less of the sentiments that Celandine had inspired her with, they imagined they had now made a discovery; but it was in favour of Mr. Lovegrove; and both of them cried out almost at the same time—'How happy would Mr. Lovegrove think himself if he saw how your ladyship is disquieted on his account!'

Though Lady Speck affected to be a little peevish at their seeming to suppose her capable of having a tenderness for any man; yet she felt as much satisfaction as the present situation of her

mind would admit her to enjoy, in finding they marked out Mr. Lovegrove as the object, and that Celandine was quite out of the question with them on that account.

'Indeed, sister,' said Miss Wingman, 'it has always been my opinion, and I believe all your friends are of the same, that the person of Mr. Lovegrove, his accomplishments, his fortune, and long services, render him not unworthy of your acceptance; and, I think, you need not be angry, nor ashamed, that this accident has discovered your sensibility of his passion.'—'Lord, my dear, how very silly you are!' said Lady Speck: 'no one man has any charms for me above another. I am only vexed that men should fall out, fight, and kill one another; and this, too, for nothing perhaps, or what is next to nothing, some idle puntilio of imaginary honour.'

Just as she had ended these words, the door was suddenly thrown open by a footman; and Lord Huntley, Sir Robert Manley, and Mr. Lovegrove, came altogether into the room. 'What, ladies,' cried the latter of these gentlemen, with an air more than ordinarily gay, 'not yet dressed! We came to attend you to the walks, and you are still in your dishabille!'—'We must have been strangely insensible,' replied Lady Speck, 'to have thought of dress when two of our acquaintance were going to embroe their hands in each other's blood!'—'Our hands are all clean, I think, Madam!' said Mr. Lovegrove. 'But can you add,' rejoined she hastily, 'that your heart is also so? Can you say you did not rise this morning with an intention to destroy, or be destroyed yourself?'

Here Mr. Lovegrove appearing a little confused, as debating within himself whether it was most proper for him to confess or to deny the fact, Lord Huntley immediately took up the word. 'No, faith, Madam!' said his lordship, with a smile; 'I dare answer so far for my friend, that he arose not this morning with the least animosity to any thing worthy of his sword.'—'No ambiguities, my good lord,' resumed she; 'I expect a plain answer to my question—therefore tell me at once, Mr. Lovegrove, how happened you to quarrel with Celandine, and which



‘which of you was the aggressor? You find,’ continued she, perceiving he was still silent, ‘that we are no strangers to the main point; and consequently have a right to expect you should gratify our curiosity with the particulars.’

‘It never has been my practice yet, Madam,’ replied Mr. Lovegrove, after a little pause, ‘to disobey your ladyship in any thing; nor must I now do it in this. You command me to tell you the motive of my quarrel with Celandine; and I must answer, it was on the score of justice and of virtue. You also ask who was the aggressor; to which I must also answer, that it was Celandine; who, by affronting a person loved and esteemed by you, justly merited chastisement, not only from me, but from all who have the honour of being acquainted with your ladyship.’

‘So, then,’ said Jenny, ‘I find that all this bustle is to be placed to my account.—But I would not have you imagine, Mr. Lovegrove,’ continued she, laughing, ‘that you are entitled to any acknowledgments from me, since I am indebted for what you have done entirely to the friendship I am honoured with by Lady Speck.’

Mr. Lovegrove was about to make some reply, but was prevented by Sir Robert Manley; who, approaching her with the most respectful air—‘Madam,’ said he, ‘if others had been as early acquainted with the presumption of Celandine, the glory of being your champion would certainly not have fallen to the lot of Mr. Lovegrove.’—‘I am glad, then,’ returned Jenny, ‘that it happened as it did; because otherwise I should have been laid under an obligation which it was not in my power to requite.’—‘It is of no importance, my dear,’ interrupted Lady Speck, ‘either who is the obliger or the obliged; and I only want to be fully informed in the particulars of this foolish transaction.’

On this, Mr. Lovegrove repeated all that passed between himself and Celandine, till their being carried before a magistrate; and would have gone through the whole, but Lord Huntley and Sir Robert Manley assisted him in the rest, and gave so pleasant a detail of Celandine’s behaviour on that occasion, as was highly diverting to the ladies. But,

though Lady Speck laughed, as well as her sister and Jenny, and affected to appear equally unconcerned at what she heard; yet there still remained something on her spirits which she could not forbear testifying in these or the like terms.

The little narrative being concluded—‘I am very glad,’ said she, ‘that no worse consequences attended this adventure; yet I cannot help being a little concerned that any thing should happen to occasion my name, or that of Miss Jessamy, to be mentioned before a magistrate, and such a mob of people as generally croud in to be witnesses of the decision he gives in cases of this nature.’

‘No, Madam!’ replied Mr. Lovegrove hastily; ‘I do assure your ladyship that neither of you have any cause to be in pain on that score; your names were held too sacred to be quoted as the subjects of a quarrel: and it was for this reason I refused to produce Celandine’s answer to the billet I sent him; he having imprudently, I might say impudently, too, inserted them in that scrawl.’—‘How!’ cried Lady Speck, with the utmost impatience in her voice and eyes; ‘let us see on what pretence the creature presumed to take that liberty!’

Though it is more than probable that Mr. Lovegrove was far from being displeased at having this opportunity of convincing Lady Speck in what manner she had been spoken of by Celandine, yet he suffered her to repeat her demand several times over before he complied with it; and, at last, seemed to do so with an extreme reluctance. ‘I intended, Madam,’ said he, ‘that no eyes but my own should have been witnesses of the unparalleled audacity it contains; but, as your ladyship commands I should deliver it to you, I neither can, nor dare, be disobedient.’

With these words, he took the letter he had received from Celandine out of his pocket, and presented it to her; adding, at the same time—‘This, Madam, however, will serve to prove, that, besides the first motive of my resentment to him, he subjoined another, not less deserving the punishment I designed.’ Her ladyship snatched it out of his hand with emotions

tions which it was not in her power to conceal; but having slightly looked it over to herself, grew a good deal more composed; and, forcing her countenance into a half-smile—‘I doubt not,’ said she, ‘but what Mr Lovegrove has said of this billet has raised a curiosity in you all for the contents; I will therefore read it aloud for the advantage of the company.’

‘Well, ladies,’ cried Lord Huntley, as soon as she had done, ‘though you have not yet the good fortune to have your merits peculiarly distinguished by this fine gentleman, you ought not to fall under too great humiliation, for you find he includes your whole sex; and plainly avows he looks upon no woman worthy venturing the tremendous discomposure of his well-tied sword-knot.’ Here followed much merriment among them, which had perhaps continued longer, as they were all persons of wit, and had so ample a field for ridicule; but it was now almost noon, and the ladies were not yet dressed; for which reason the gentlemen thought proper to withdraw, and leave them to consult their glasses on those charms that Celandine had affected to despise.

Jenny and Miss Wingman thought little of this adventure afterwards; but it made a very deep impression on the mind of Lady Speck: the delicacy Mr. Lovegrove had shewn in laying the stress of his resentment on the affront Celandine had offered to her friend, and not on the jealousy which she plainly saw he had conceived of herself, opened her eyes to those merits in him to which her partial inclination for the other had made her so long blind; and she now beheld both of the men such as they truly were, and not such as her unjudging fancy had lately painted them.

Ashamed of her past folly, she had no consolation but in the care she had always taken to conceal it from the world: as for Mr. Lovegrove, whose good opinion she was now most concerned to preserve, she resolved to behave towards him for the future in such a manner as should entirely dissipate whatever suspicions he might have entertained to her prejudice.

It was undoubtedly the good genius, or better angel, of this lady, which had brought about, however fortuitous they

might seem, such a happy concurrence of events as could not fail of awakening her to a just sense of what she owed to her character, and that esteem she was naturally so ambitious of maintaining. What advantages she received from this change of humour, and the emendations she was at present enlightened with, will hereafter be demonstrated; in the mean time, there are things of a yet more interesting nature, which demand the attention of the reader.

#### CHAP. V.

CONTAINS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AN ACCOUNT OF A VERY EXTRAORDINARY, AND NO LESS SEVERE TRIAL OF FEMALE FORTITUDE AND MODERATION.

ACCORDING to all the observations which reason and a long experience have enabled me to make, happiness is a thing which ought to be totally erased out of the vocabulary of sublunary enjoyments: the human heart is liable to so many passions, and the events of fortune so uncertain and precarious, that life is little more than a continued series of anxieties and suspense: what we pursue as the ultimate end of our desires, the *summum bonum* of all our wishes, fleets before us, dances in the wind, seems at some times ready to meet our grasp, at others soaring quite out of reach; or, when attained, deceives our expectations, baffles our high-raised hopes, and shews the fancied heaven a mere vapour.

Nor is this to be wondered at, or indeed much to be pitied, in those who place their happiness in the gratification of their passions, all of which, in general, tend to the acquisition of what is far from being a real good. There are some, though I fear an inconsiderable number, who, composed of more equal elements, wisely avoid the restless aims, the giddy vain pursuits, with which they see so many of their fellow-creatures so intoxicated and perplexed; would fain sit down contented with their lot, whatever it happens to be; and, observing this maxim of the poet—

‘Not to sit and turn about their feverish will,  
But know their ease must come by lying still.’

Yet not even these can find an asylum from

from cares : though the soul, like a hermit in his cell, sits quiet in the bosom, unruffled by any tempest of its own, it suffers from the rude blasts of others faults. Envy and Detraction are sure to taint with their envenomed breath ; treachery, deceit, and all kinds of injustice, alarm it with the most dreadful apprehensions of impending danger, and shew the necessity of keeping a continual guard against their pernicious enterprizes : but above all, the ingratitude of friends is the most terrible to sustain ; that anguish which proceeds from the detected falshood of a person on whom we depend is almost insupportable ; nor can reason and philosophy be always sufficient to defend us from it ; as I remember to have somewhere read—

‘ Fate ne’er strikes deep but when unkind-  
nefs joins.’

This is certainly a very melancholy circumstance ; and the situation of the injured person’s mind cannot but be very uneasy. After having placed an entire confidence in any one whom we believe to be a friend ; after having entrusted him with the dearest secrets of our lives, and relied upon him for all the services and good offices in his power ; then, I say, to find him base, ungenerous, and deceitful, is as poignant an affliction as any to which language can give a name.

I know not whether to be eternally deprived of a real and experienced friend by the stroke of death, be not a less shock than it is to lose one, whom we have always believed as such, by his own infidelity. Under the former of these misfortunes we have the liberty to indulge many consolatory reflections ; first, that the great law of nature must be obeyed, and that there was an indispensable necessity for us to be one day separated ; secondly, in the hope that the person we lament is a gainer by this change, and much more happy than mortal life could make him ; and, thirdly, though it may seem, perhaps, a wild idea, in supposing a possibility that he may be still a witness of our actions, be pleased at our remembrance of him ; and, at the hour of our dissolution, even be appointed our conductor to the celestial mansions : but, under the latter, that of being betrayed by a false friend, we can have no such agreeable images before our eyes ; on the contrary, grief

and despair for ill-requited tenderness and sincerity, accompanied with remorse and shame for having made so unworthy a choice, must be the only subjects of our distracted meditations.

Thus impossible it is for minds the most serene by nature to remain always wholly free from inquietudes of one shape or other. Jenny, the heroine of this history, had a temper not easily discomposed, and well deserved that character which our English Sappho gave of a lady for whom she had a particular veneration.

‘ Cheerful as birds that welcome in the spring,  
‘ No ill suspecting, nor no danger dreading ;  
‘ In conscious innocence secure and blest’d,  
‘ She liv’d belov’d of all, and loving all.’

And yet she met with something, which, if it had not all the effect it would have produced in most others of her sex, was at least sufficient to turn that so late harmonious frame of mind into a kind of chaos and inextricable confusion. Those arrows of vexation which the base contrivances of Bell-pine had levelled against her peace, had hitherto proved unsuccessful ; they had either missed their aim, or slightly glanced upon her without doing any real mischief ; but she now received a random shot, and from a hand which least designed to hurt her, that pierced her tender bosom to the quick, and left a wound behind which required a long length of time to heal.

Since the adventure of Celandine, the ladies had lived for some days in an interrupted scene of gaiety ; every day, almost every hour, brought with it some new pleasure or amusement : to heighten Jenny’s satisfaction, she had received a letter from Jemmy, acquainting her that his business was now near being concluded, and that he should very shortly be with her at Bath ; he wrote to her on this account in terms so positive, that she doubted not but his next would inform her of the day in which he was to set out from London. In that expectation he sent him an answer full of tenderness, expressing the sincere pleasure she took in the hopes he gave her of seeing him so soon, and desiring he would not let slip the first opportunity that presented itself of fulfilling his promise ; though, in effect, she thought this injunction very needless ; for she

had that perfect confidence in him, as to assure herself he would not lose a single moment that might bring him nearer to her.

But behold the swift vicissitudes of human affairs; how in one instant are the faces of things changed to the reverse of what they were! The ladies had been at a ball, which detained them till very late: on their coming home, Jenny remembering it was the day that the post came in, she asked if no letter had been brought for her; and being told there was, and that it lay upon her toilette, she wished the ladies a good night, and ran hastily to her chamber in order to peruse the letter, which she doubted not came from her dear *Jemmy*, with the certainty of his immediate approach. She was not, indeed, deceived in the former part of her conjecture; she saw it *Jemmy's* hand, and directed, as usual,

‘ TO MISS JESSAMY, AT BATH.

But what was her amazement, her consternation, when, breaking the seal, and unfolding the paper with all the impatience of the most warm affection, she found the contents as follows!

‘ DEAR ANGEL!

‘ WHEN I acquainted you with that curst engagement which an unavoidable necessity has laid me under, I little thought you would have repented it in the manner you now seem to do; especially when I assured you, with the utmost sincerity, that I would break from it as soon as I could find a pretence to do it with decency; you might, methinks, have known me better than to suspect I would omit any thing in my power to hasten the happy minute of flying to your arms with a heart unencumbered with any cares but those of pleasing you.

‘ If you return the passion I have for you with half that gratitude you have so enchantingly avowed, you will repent; you must by this time repent of the pains you cannot but be sensible your cruel billet has inflicted on me. I flatter myself with being able to see you in a few days at our usual place of meeting; when, if you are as just as fair, you will be more kind to him who is, with an unextinguished flame,

‘ my dear charmer, your most devoted  
‘ and faithful servant,

‘ J. JESSAMY.

‘ P. S. If I have any friends among  
‘ the intellectual world, I shall  
‘ petition them to haunt your  
‘ nightly dreams with the shadow  
‘ of me, till propitious fortune  
‘ throws the substance at your feet.’

What now was the condition of *Jenny*! She re-examined the seal and the hand-writing; she knew both too well to flatter herself with a possibility of their being counterfeited; nor was it in her power to conceive that the engagement mentioned in the letter could be any other than that between herself and *Jemmy*. Where are the words that can furnish a description, where is the heart, not under the same circumstances, that can be truly sensible of what she felt? Grief and indignation in these first moments were absorbed in wild astonishment; convulsions seized her breast; her brain grew giddy; her eyes dazzled, while attempting to look over again some passages in this fatal letter; and her whole frame being agitated with emotions too violent for nature to sustain, she fell back in the chair where she was sitting, and every function ceased it's operation.

Her maid, who was waiting in her chamber, perceiving this, flew to her assistance, threw some lavender-water on her face, and at the same time screamed out for help. Lady Speck and Miss Wingman, being that instant coming up to their apartment, heard the cries, and ran into the room. They found their fair friend without any signs of breath, and motionless; they took hold of her hands, and felt them bedewed all over, as was her lovely face, with a cold dead damp, like that of the last agonies of departing life.

Surprized and frightened beyond measure, they cut the lacings of her stays; raised her gently forwards; applied hartshorn to her nostrils and temples, and every other remedy they could think of; till at length, either through their endeavours, or the force of nature labouring for itself, she recovered by degrees, opened her eyes, and uttered some words, which, though inarticulate, rejoiced their hearts.

Reason and recollection, however, were not as yet returned; and Lady Speck



Speck finding her disorder still continued very violent, thought proper, late as it then was, to send for a physician; and in the mean time both she and her sister, as well as their women-servants, who were called in, assisted in putting her into bed, where she was no sooner laid than she grew better: not only her voice, but her senses also were enough restored to thank the ladies for the trouble they had taken; and to tell them, in order to conceal the real cause, that she believed her disorder was occasioned by her having danced too much that night.

The physician being come, she notwithstanding suffered him to feel her pulse, and promised to follow his prescription, which was only a composing draught for that night; though he departed not without giving some items that his advice would be necessary next day. The ladies, after having seen her take the dose prepared for her, retired, and left her to the care of her own maid and Lady Speck's woman, who both sat by her bed-side the whole remainder of the night.

#### CHAP. VI.

TREATS OF MANY THINGS AS UNEXPECTED BY THE PERSONS CONCERNED IN THEM, AS THEY CAN BE BY THE READER HIMSELF.

**L**ADY Speck and her sister had no sooner quitted Jenny's chamber than she fell into a profound sleep; whether owing to the goodness of her constitution, the doctor's prescription, or the fatigue she had undergone, is uncertain, but she awoke next morning greatly refreshed, and much more so in spirits than could have been expected.

She now called to mind all the particulars that had occasioned her late disorder; and remembering she had not put up the letter, ordered it should be looked for and brought to her: the maid searched carefully about the room; it being no where to be found, she concluded that somebody must have taken it away, and by that means a secret would be divulged which she had much

rather should have been eternally concealed.

But as this suggestion was only a sudden start of female pride, of which she had as small a share as any of her sex, her good understanding easily got the better of it. 'I think,' said she to herself, 'the unfaithful man called his engagement with me a cursed engagement, and promised to break it off: if so, the discovery must be made some time or other; it is therefore of little importance when or by what means his perfidiousness is revealed.'

She was not mistaken, indeed; the letter had dropped from her hand as she fainted. Miss Wingman, during the confusion, seeing a paper lie on the floor, took it up; and finding Jemmy's name subscribed, was curious to know the contents, and for that purpose put it into her pocket without any one observing what she did. She kept not from her sister the knowledge of the petty larceny she had committed; and as soon as they were alone together, read it carefully over, examined every sentence, and made their own reflections upon the whole; which, prejudiced as they were with a belief of Jemmy's inconstancy, were yet less unfavourable to him in this point than those of his offended mistress.

They were, however, extremely incensed against Jemmy; and, sincerely pitying the case of their friend, resolved to say and do every thing they could to soften her affliction. It being near morning when they went to rest, the day was very far advanced before they arose; but they had no sooner quitted their beds than they repaired directly to Jenny's chamber, and found her much less disconsolate than they had imagined.

As that young lady doubted not but it was either Lady Speck or her sister who had taken away her letter, or at least some person who would not fail of communicating it to them, she had determined, before they came, in what manner she would behave on the occasion. The sisters, on their part, were not altogether so well prepared; they expected not that she was as yet in a condition to endure much discourse, especially on so tender and critical a point; they thought it would be time enough to entertain her on that head

M<sub>a</sub> when

when the first shock of her misfortune should be over, and had not therefore well considered how to break their knowledge of it to her.

This caution in them was certainly very prudent, as well as very kind; but Jenny had too much spirit and resolution not to render it unnecessary. On their entrance she started up in her bed, and said to them with a smile—‘ I guessed, ladies, that your good-nature would bring you hither; so was just going to rise, that you might be spared the trouble.’

‘ I am very glad,’ replied Lady Speck, ‘ to find that a disorder which seemed to threaten the worst consequences is likely to go off so well; but, my dear Miss Jessamy, I would not have you think of leaving your bed till your health is a little farther re-established. I will order,’ added she, ‘ breakfast to be brought in here; and, after that, would fain persuade you to take some repose.’

The maid then going out of the room to fetch the utensils for breakfast—‘ Instead of this goodness, Madam,’ said Jenny, ‘ your ladyship ought rather to chide me for my folly. The inconsistency and ingratitude of mankind are not things so new and strange to justify that surprize and confusion I was last night involved in.’

They looked on each other at these words, but made no answer; on which Jenny went on—‘ I am very sensible, ladies,’ pursued she, ‘ that neither of you are unacquainted with the cause of my disorder: the letter I received last night has informed you of all; nor am I sorry it has done what my tongue might have faltered in performing.’

‘ Since I have your pardon, my dear,’ replied Miss Wingman, ‘ I shall make no scruple to confess the theft which my curiosity made me guilty of; and I am the more ready to excuse myself for what I have done, as I am apt to think that the knowledge my sister and I have of this affair may enable us to give you some consolation under it.’

‘ Yes, my dear Miss Jessamy,’ rejoined Lady Speck; ‘ you must believe that, though greatly interested in all that concerns you, our minds were less disconcerted than yours must na-

turally be on reading that epistle; and consequently were in a better capacity of judging, and seeing into the heart of him who wrote it.—‘ And what can you see there, Madam,’ cried Jenny hastily, ‘ but the most vile ingratitude and perfidiousness?’—‘ I am going about,’ said that lady, ‘ not to palliate his crimes; but I think it is your duty to thank Heaven, that by this incident of his directing to you what was doubtless intended for another, you are convinced how unworthy he is of your affection.’

‘ Besides,’ cried Miss Wingman, perceiving Jenny sighed, and made no answer to what Lady Speck had said, ‘ methinks it should please you to find, that if Mr. Jessamy has slighted you for the sake of Miss Chit, he slights her also for some other; and she has no less reason to condemn him than yourself.’

‘ Do you not think, then, that the letter was meant for her?’ demanded Jenny hastily. ‘ No, indeed,’ resumed Lady Speck; ‘ nor will you, when you consider more coolly on the matter, believe that any man, much less one so polite as Mr. Jessamy, would write in such a stile and manner to a woman he intended for a wife. This woman,’ pursued she, ‘ is rather some petty mistress, whom chance may have thrown in his way.’ On this Miss Wingman, after having urged something in defence of what her sister had said, returned the letter to Jenny, desiring she would examine it again, and then tell them how far she thought their opinion of it was unreasonable or improbable.

Jenny obeyed this injunction with a great deal of readiness; and after having paused for some moments on what she had read—‘ I confess, ladies,’ said she, ‘ that the freedom Mr. Jessamy takes with this woman is little becoming of an honourable passion; but the more base his inclinations are, the more reason I have to resent he should attempt a gratification of them at the expence of that respect due from him to the engagement he has with me.’

‘ Men will say any thing to gain their point this way,’ said Lady Speck laughing; ‘ and if hereafter you shall find no greater cause of complaint against him than what this letter gives you, I should almost pity his inad-

vertency

‘vertency in exposing his folly to the only woman from whom it most behoved him to have concealed it.’

Just as she had ended these words, tea and chocolate were brought in; after which, as the maids were present, no farther discourse passed upon this subject. When breakfast was over, the ladies retired in order to dress, but not without conjuring Jenny to lie still, and endeavour to take a little more repose: she promised to comply, but had nothing less in her head, being glad to be alone, and at liberty to make her own reflections on an event which had occasioned so great a change both in her sentiments and humour.

As she had imagined, in the first hurry of her spirits on the receipt of this letter, that it was in reality wrote to Miss Chit, and a demonstrative proof of the truth of all that had been told her on that account by Lady Speck and Miss Wingman, it was no inconsiderable alleviation of her trouble, to be now pretty well convinced, that instead of making his honourable addresses to a woman of condition, he was only amusing himself with an affair of gallantry, a thing not much to be wondered at in a gentleman of his years and gay disposition; and her good sense would, doubtless, have enabled her to forgive it, but for the promise he seemed to have made to this new object of his flame, of breaking through all engagements, that he might devote himself entirely to her.

This, in a man whom she had always looked upon and regarded as her second self, appeared so treacherous and ungrateful, that resentment got the better of all the tenderness she once had for him, and made her resolve to take him at his word, and be the first to release him from those engagements he had treated in so unworthy a manner.

Thus did the greatness of her spirit refuse to yield to the impulse of grief; she got out of bed, in spite of all the entreaties of her maid to the contrary, put on her cloaths, locked safely up the proof of her lover’s infidelity in a little casket where she kept her jewels, and would even have gone down into the dining-room as usual, but found her limbs too weak to obey the dictates of her will; she threw herself into an easy-chair, and remained there for some time, in a situation of mind which only those

of my fair readers who have experienced somewhat like the same, can be capable of conceiving.

She was in a deep reverie when the ladies returned to her chamber: she spoke cheerfully to them; yet they plainly saw, through all the vivacity she assumed, that a heavy melancholy had seated itself upon her heart. They would not therefore leave her: they ordered dinner to be served up in that room; and, when it was over, called for a pack of cards, and obliged her to make one at ombre.

They had played but a very short time before a servant acquainted the two ladies that a man was below who said his name was Landy; that he was just come from London, and had brought letters of the utmost importance, which he was charged to deliver the moment of his arrival.

‘Bless me! my mother’s steward!’ cried Lady Speck. ‘Grant, Heaven,’ rejoined Miss Wingman, ‘that no hurt has happened to her ladyship!’ With these words they threw the cards out of their hands, and ran immediately down stairs.

Jenny, who at another time would have been anxious for any thing that concerned her friend, was now too much engrossed with her own affairs to give much regard to the exclamations these ladies had made, and returned to those reflections they had endeavoured to divert her from.

It was not long, however, before they both came back, and with countenances which denoted the most extreme surprise. ‘Well, Miss Jessamy,’ said the younger, ‘I have done my best to console you; you may now do the same kind office to me; all men are alike perfidious; there is, faith, no honour in the whole sex.’

‘Aye, my dear,’ cried Lady Speck, ‘such a monstrous piece of villainy is come to light, as, when you hear, will make you forget every thing besides.’—‘All that you can guess is nothing to it,’ resumed Miss Wingman; ‘but I will keep you no longer in suspense. You must know that I have just received two letters; the one from my guardian, Sir Thomas Welby, and the other from my mamma; she would not trust the intelligence they contained by the post, for fear of a miscarriage, but sent her own steward and

'ard on purpose to me: you shall hear them both; I will begin with that from Sir Thomas.'

She then took the letter she mentioned out of her pocket, and read as follows.

'TO MISS WINGMAN, AT BATH.

'DEAR MISS,

'I Thank Heaven for putting it in my power to discover to you, I hope time enough to prevent your ruin, as wicked a design as ever entered the heart of the most profligate of our sex to attempt against the innocence of yours.

'I am ashamed to think that a nobleman of Lord Huntley's birth and personal endowments can be capable of descending to such a low piece of villainy; yet so it is. I can assure you, my dear Miss, that nothing is more certain than that he is already married. His lady, I believe, is but lately come from Ireland, and is at present lodged at the house of a particular friend of mine! I both saw and spoke to her ladyship, under the pretence of having some business with my lord; she told me he was not in town, which indeed I very well knew, having been informed he had followed you down to Bath. There are, besides this, many other circumstances to evince the truth; but as they are too numerous, and too long, to be inserted in the compass of a letter, I shall defer giving you the detail of them till I have the pleasure of seeing you. My advice to you is, that you put it not in the power of this unworthy lord to deceive you any farther, but return immediately to London. Lady Wingman is of the same opinion; but as this letter will be accompanied with one from herself, I doubt not but it will have all the effect it ought to have on your behaviour. I am, with the best wishes, my dear charge, your very affectionate friend, and most humble servant,

'T. WELBY.'

Jenny had no time to express any part of her sentiments on this occasion. Miss Wingman had no sooner ended her guardian's epistle, than she proceeded to that from her mother; the contents whereof were these.

'TO MISS WINGMAN, AT BATH.

'MY DEAR CHILD,

'I Cannot sufficiently express the trouble I am under on account of Lord Huntley's baseness; the intelligence of which I first received from our good friend Sir Thomas Welby, and am since but too much confirmed in the truth of it by some enquiries myself has been at the pains to make. I must confess it was with difficulty I listened to any reports to his prejudice; I could not tell how to believe such foul deceit could be couched under a form so seemingly adorned with every virtue, as well as every accomplishment befitting his birth. But, my dear Kitty, we are never so easily beguiled as by the appearance of honour and sincerity. I tremble to think to what dangers you are exposed, while suffering yourself to be entertained with the insinuating addresses of a man who can mean nothing but to involve you in eternal wretchedness: I conjure you therefore, I command you by all the authority I have over you, never to see him more; to fly his presence as a serpent that watches to blast your peace and reputation with his envenomed breath. I have sent Lady on purpose to bring you this, and to attend you to London; and hope you will not detain him any longer than is necessary for your getting ready to set out. Farewell! That Heaven may have you always under it's protection, is the unceasing prayer of, my dear child, your most affectionate mother,

'K. WINGMAN.

'P. S. I am not in a condition to write to your sister, but desire you will give my blessing to her; and let her know, that if she stays behind you at Bath, as I suppose the will, she may expect to hear from me in a short time. In the present confusion of my thoughts, I had almost forgot my compliments to Miss Jessamy, which pray make acceptable to her.'

Jenny could scarce find words to express her astonishment at what she heard; she could not tell how to think Lord Huntley guilty in the manner he was represented; and yet could less believe that



that Sir Thomas Welby and Lady Wingman, who she knew had always favoured his pretensions, would write as they had done without having undeniable proofs of the justice of their accusation.

The three ladies had a long conversation together, the event of which will be seen in the succeeding chapter.

## CHAP. VII.

CONTAINS A BRIEF RECITAL OF  
THE RESOLUTIONS TAKEN ON  
THE FOREGOING ADVICE.

**A**MONG the many who made their addresses to Miss Wingman, there was none who had been so likely to succeed as Lord Huntley: she respected him so well, that had the information against him come from any other hands than those it did, she would not have given the least credit to it; but she loved him not enough to reject the admonitions of her friends, or to make her hesitate one moment if she should believe him guilty, or refuse to condemn a person whom they had found worthy of it.

Gay as she was by nature, she testified not the least reluctance to obey the commands of her mother in quitting Bath, and all its pleasures; and resolved to do so without seeing Lord Huntley before she went, or being at the pains of reproaching him with the crime he was accused of.

But as she seemed a little desirous that he should some way or other be made acquainted with her knowledge of his perfidiousness, and thought it as great an infringement of her mother's orders to write as to speak to him any more, Lady Speck was so obliging as to tell her she would take that task upon herself at his next visit.

Nor was it by this alone she proved the affection she had for her sister. 'As you were entrusted to my care by my mother,' said she, 'on our coming down to Bath, I am very loth to part with you till I have seen you safe again in her arms; therefore,' continued she, 'if Miss Jessamy consents, I should be glad to return all together to London in the same manner as we left it.'

Nothing could have been more agree-

able to Jenny than this proposal: she was not now in a condition to relish the pleasures of Bath, and longed very much to return to a place where persons are at liberty either to see all the world, or to live perfectly retired, as suits best with their humour or circumstances.

'I am charmed with your ladyship's design,' cried she; 'I could not have been easy to have seen Miss Wingman torn from us in this manner, especially on an occasion which could not afford her any pleasing ideas for the companions of her journey.'

Miss Wingman made many acknowledgments to them both for this kind offer, but at first refused to accept it. 'I think myself happy,' said she, 'in the testimony you give me of your good-nature and friendship towards me; but I cannot suffer you to think of leaving this place just in the height of the season, and returning to London, which is now a perfect wilderness, merely because I am obliged to go thither by a duty which I cannot dispense with.'

It is not to be supposed reasonable that this young lady was much in earnest in what she said on this score; the others, however, were too sincere to take her at her word; and it was at last agreed, that they should all set out together as soon as every thing could be got ready for their departure.

No company happening to come in, they passed the whole evening in Jenny's chamber; where the conversation turning chiefly on the communication of Lord Huntley's marriage, it suddenly came into Lady Speck's head, that it would be better for her to express her sentiments on that occasion by a letter, than by holding any discourse with a man whom she could scarce think upon with any tolerable degree of patience.

Miss Wingman approving of her intention, her ladyship took Jenny's standish, and immediately wrote to him in the following terms.

TO LORD HUNTLEY.

MY LORD,

**I**T is with an infinity of astonishment, and little less concern, that I find your lordship's proposal of an alliance with our family, instead of

'an honour, is the greatest affront that  
'could possibly be offered to it. I  
'thought my sister's birth, fortune,  
'and character, had set her above be-  
'ing attempted to be made the dupe  
'either of a vicious inclination or un-  
'meaning gallantry; for to what else,  
'than to gratify one or the other of  
'these propensities, can tend the ad-  
'dresses of a person who has already  
'disposed of himself to another?

'This, my lord, is sufficient to con-  
'vince you that we are perfectly well  
'acquainted with your marriage: af-  
'ter which I cannot suppose you will  
'even think of continuing your visits;  
'the only reparation you can make for  
'a proceeding so unworthy of you be-  
'ing to shun, henceforward, the pre-  
'sence of my much-injured sister, and  
'also of all those who have any interest  
'in her happiness or reputation; a-  
'mong the number of whom, you can-  
'not doubt, is her who is sorry to sub-  
'scribe herself, my lord, your lord-  
'ship's ill-treated servant,

'M. SPECK.'

This, after having shewn it to Miss  
Wingman and Jenny for their appro-  
bation, she sent by a servant, to be left  
for Lord Huntley; but that nobleman  
coming not home till very late, could  
do nothing in the affair that night.  
Early the next morning Lady Speck  
received a billet from him, containing  
these lines.

'TO LADY SPECK.

'MADAM,

'I Received yours with more astonish-  
'ment than you could be capable  
'of feeling at the motive which in-  
'duced your ladyship to write to me  
'in the manner you did. So base, and  
'withal so ridiculous, a calumny,  
'would have merited only my con-  
'tempt, had it not reached the ears of  
'persons for whom I have the greatest  
'reverence. Nothing is more easy than  
'for me to clear my innocence in this  
'matter; but, as I cannot bear to ap-  
'pear, even for one moment, guilty in  
'the eyes of my dear adorable Miss  
'Wingman, I beg your ladyship will  
'give me the opportunity of justifying  
'myself by letting me know the name  
'of my accuser; that villain who,

'while he stabs in the back, reaches  
'my heart. In confidence of your  
'ladyship's generosity in this point, I  
'will wait on you as soon as I am  
'dressed; promising, at the same time,  
'to intrude no more till this cruel af-  
'fection is removed, and I shall be  
'found to be, what I truly am, a man  
'of honour; and, with the most pro-  
'found respect, Madam, your lady-  
'ship's most humble and most obedient  
'servant,

'HUNTLEY.'

The two sisters, who had imagined  
he would have been too much shocked  
at the detection of his crime to have  
gone about to deny it, or to excuse it,  
cried out, that he had an unparalleled  
assurance; that to behave in this man-  
ner was an aggravation of his guilt;  
and proved his soul as mean and ab-  
ject as his principles were corrupt and  
base.

But Jenny, who was always ready  
to think the best, and, besides, had the  
eyes of her reason less obscured by pas-  
sion, began immediately to entertain  
more favourable sentiments: she found  
something in this letter which, in spite  
of all the appearances against him,  
made her believe there was a possibility  
of his being wronged. She could not  
forbear communicating her opinion to  
the ladies; and urged in the defence  
of it these arguments.

'Lord Huntley is a man of sense,'  
said she; 'and, if he was so wicked as  
'to be capable of acting in the manner  
'that has been represented, he could  
'not be so stupidly weak as to desire a  
'farther explanation of it; certainly  
'he would rather be silent on that  
'head: if guilty, what would his pre-  
'tensions to innocence avail? His  
'making any noise in relation to a fact  
'which, if true, may be so plainly  
'proved, would only serve to make his  
'criminal designs more conspicuous,  
'and expose his villainy to those who  
'otherwise might hear nothing of it.'

'All this is very true, my dear,' re-  
plied Lady Speck; 'but yet there are  
'some men who have had the impu-  
'dence and folly not only to court,  
'but even actually marry, a second  
'wife, while the former has been liv-  
'ing; and perhaps, too, at less distance  
'than, it is likely, Lady Huntley was  
'when

‘when he first made his addresses to my sister.’

‘It will not enter into my head that Lord Huntley is one of these; nor can I think it quite just that a man should be absolutely condemned without a fair trial, or even knowing by whom he is accused.’

Lady Speck paused a little on these words; and then said, that, as she was certain Sir Thomas Welby would not so positively assert a thing, the truth of which he was not well assured of, she was half inclined to grant Lord Huntley’s request, though it were only the more to confound him.

Scarce had she done speaking in this manner, when her woman came into the room, and told her that Lord Huntley’s servant, who had brought the letter, and had waited all this time for an answer, begged to know if her ladyship had any commands to send by him; to which, after a short consideration, she replied—‘Yes; he may tell his lord that I shall be at home.’

Miss Wingman had not opened her mouth during this whole debate; but now shewed, by her countenance, that she was not displeased at the result; and, it is highly probable, felt more impatience than she thought proper to express for what should pass in this important interview.

#### CHAP. VIII.

SERVES ONLY TO RENDER THE CAUSE MORE INTRICATE, AND INVOLVE THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN IT IN FRESH PERPLEXITIES.

LADY Speck had given orders that, when Lord Huntley came, he should be admitted, but not farther than the parlour. It would have been pleasant enough for any one to have observed the meeting of these two: he approached her with a profound reverence, but with a reserve which had something in it very near akin to resentment; she returned his salutation with an air all distant and austere; and they stood looking upon one another for the space of near half a minute without speaking.

Lady Speck was the first that broke

silence: ‘I did not expect, my lord,’ said she, ‘that your lordship would have given yourself the trouble of making any visits here, after what I wrote to you last night.’

‘It is not, indeed, Madam, a thing very common with me,’ answered he, gravely, ‘to go to any place where I have been once forbid: but I am pierced in too tender a part to stand upon punctilios; both my love and honour are wounded, gashed, mangled, in a most cruel and infamous degree; and it is only from your ladyship’s justice and humanity that I can hope a cure!’

‘Can you deny, my lord, that you are married?’ cried she. ‘By Heaven! not married, nor contracted!’ returned he, eagerly: ‘nor, till I saw your charming sister, I defy the world to prove that I ever made the least proposal of that nature to any woman breathing.’ These words, and the manner in which they were delivered, began a little to stagger that belief of his infidelity which she, till now, had thought herself confirmed in. ‘If any part of what your lordship avers be true,’ said she, ‘Sir Thomas Welby must certainly have been imposed on by some very extraordinary methods.’

‘Sir Thomas Welby, Madam!’ retorted Lord Huntley, in great amazement; ‘is it then possible that he should be my accuser?’—‘There required a no less substantial evidence,’ said she, ‘to authorize a supposition of your lordship’s being guilty of a crime like this. But you may see what he says,’ added she, presenting him with Sir Thomas’s letter.

He read it hastily to himself; and, as soon as he had done so—‘I perceive indeed, Madam,’ said he, ‘that some uncommon arts have been put in practice against me; for what reason I am not able to conceive. Sir Thomas’s veracity is well known to me; and, I think, he has been inclined to favour my pretensions: I doubt not, therefore, but he will readily afford me his assistance in diving to the bottom of this mysterious villainy. I am sure I shall lose no time, nor spare no pains, to bring the dark incendiary to light. But,’ pursued he, ‘I will trouble your ladyship no farther,

'farther, nor even ask to see the object of my soul's desire, till my innocence is fully cleared, and I have proved myself less unworthy of adoring her.'

He concluded these words with a low bow, and went directly out of the room, without waiting to hear what answer she might have made to them.

It was, perhaps, much for her ease that he did so; for she was now in a consternation at his behaviour little inferior to what she felt on the first information of his crime: his words, his looks, his resolution, made a deep impression on her; she had seen grief and resentment in his countenance, but nothing that betokened a consciousness of guilt. She knew not what to think, or how to form a right judgment of him; but ran immediately to Jenny and Miss Wingman, to impart to them all that had passed, and hear their sentiments upon it.

The latter of these young ladies was afraid of giving her opinion, probably lest it should be thought too favourable; but Jenny presently cried, that she could almost lay her life upon his innocence. 'I dare believe,' said she, 'that I have hit upon the real ground-work of this story: the woman who would pass for his wife is certainly no other than some cast-off mistress of his, who, either in revenge for his deserting her, or to give herself an air, assumes the name of Lady Huntley.'

'No, no, Miss Jessamy!' interrupted Lady Speck; 'it is impossible that Sir Thomas would assert, in such positive terms, a thing of this nature on so slender a foundation: I know him better; and there must be something more in it than we can at present see into.'

While the ladies were in this dilemma, Lord Huntley, who, the moment he had left Lady Speck, went in search of his two friends, Sir Robert Manley and Mr. Lovegrove, was now complaining to them of the aspersions cast upon him, and declaring his resolution of going to London with all possible expedition, in order to detect the primary author of the calumny cast upon him.

These gentlemen, who had known his lordship for a considerable time, and had never heard any thing like his

having consummated a marriage, were very much surprized that so odd a story should be raised, and highly applauded his intention of justifying himself as soon as he was able.

Both of them offered to be partakers of his journey: he told them he was greatly indebted to their friendship on this score; but that he hoped he should soon return to Bath with the proofs of his innocence, and that it would be altogether needless for them to undergo the fatigue of accompanying him.

Sir Robert Manley, however, insisted on going with him. 'As for Lovegrove,' said he, 'I think he stands better with Lady Speck for some days past than he had ever done before; and it would be pity to take him from her at a time when she seems to be in such favourable dispositions towards him: but, as for me, I have no mistresses, at least none that will receive my vows, and consequently can have no pleasure equal to that of proving my sincerity to my friend.—Therefore, my dear lord,' added he, 'if you do not suffer me to go with you in your coach, you shall not hinder me from following you on horseback.'

Lord Huntley was at last prevailed upon to take Sir Robert with him on this expedition; but, though he hoped to return triumphant from it in four or five days at farthest, he would by no means hear of Mr. Lovegrove's leaving Bath, for ever so small a space of time, while Lady Speck continued there.

They all dined together; after which, Sir Robert and Mr. Lovegrove left Lord Huntley; the one to give directions to his man for every thing to be got ready for his departure the next morning by break of day, and the other to pay his devoirs to his mistress.

Jenny, who would not be persuaded to keep her chamber any longer, though not quite recovered enough to go abroad, was now come down into the dining-room; and Miss Wingman resolved not to appear again in any publick place while she remained at Bath, for fear of meeting Lord Huntley. Lady Speck, also, in complaisance to them both, would not go out of the house; so that Mr. Lovegrove, on his coming there, found them all at home.

The first compliments were no sooner over,



over, than the conversation began on Lord Huntley's affair. Mr. Lovegrove left nothing unsaid that he thought might contribute to make them entertain a more favourable opinion of his friend: he remonstrated to them the improbability of his being guilty in the manner he was represented; and Lady Speck and Miss Wingman, in their turn, remonstrated the improbability that such a story could be raised without some sort of foundation; but Jenny, as she had always done, sided with Mr. Lovegrove, and took the part of the accused.

They were engaged in this dispute when Sir Robert Manley came in. That gentleman, though expecting to be back in a short time, was too polite to think of going without taking his leave of the ladies: hearing what subject they were upon, he seconded Mr. Lovegrove's arguments; and so warmly defended the cause of his absent friend, that Lady Speck was obliged to cry out—'Well, well, let us have no more discourse upon this head; it is time alone that can decide the point between us: for my part, I wish his lordship may be found as innocent as you would persuade us to believe he is.'

'This is extremely generous in your ladyship,' replied Sir Robert. 'But, Madam,' continued he, addressing himself to Miss Wingman, 'how happy should I make my friend, if I were permitted to carry him the assurance that you also joined with your sister in the same kind wish!'

'Lord Huntley may be certain,' answered she, blushing, 'that I should be very sorry a crime like what is laid to his charge should be proved on any in the world, much more on a person whom I cannot deny but I once thought highly deserving of my esteem.'

There passed nothing more of any moment while they were together, which was not very long; for the gentlemen were impatient to return to Lord Huntley, who, they knew, was alone, and stood in need of all the consolation they could give him. They staid the whole evening with him, and rejoined him very early in the morning, at which time he set out with Sir Robert on his journey to London.

## C H A P. IX.

HAS IN IT SOME THINGS OF NO SMALL IMPORTANCE, THOUGH AT PRESENT THEY MAY APPEAR TOO INSIGNIFICANT TO BE INSERTED.

**L**ORD Huntley being gone, and Miss Wingman freed from all those dangers her mother apprehended for her, there seemed no necessity for that young lady's leaving Bath; yet, as she had received such positive commands to do so, and Lady waited to conduct her, she thought she could not well excuse herself from going. Jenny, who was now quite weary of the place, having lost all her relish for it's pleasures, said all she could to fortify her in this resolution; and, between them both, Lady Speck was prevailed upon to think it right.

Accordingly both the sisters wrote to Lady Wingman, giving her an exact account of all that had passed in relation to Lord Huntley, and assuring her that they should throw themselves at her feet as soon as the necessary preparations could be made for their journey.

But before I proceed any farther on the particulars of these ladies adventures during the short time they had now to stay at Bath, I think it highly proper that the reader should be made fully acquainted with the several dispositions their minds were in at present.

As for Lady Speck, the late behaviour of Celandine had rendered him so despicable in her eyes, that she wondered at herself for having been able ever to endure the conversation of such a fop, and much more to have been won to a liking of his person, the graces of which she now plainly saw were chiefly owing to his milliner and taylor. Mr. Lovegrove, on the contrary, had shewn so much of the man of honour, and of the respectful lover, in what he had done, that she hesitated not a moment if she should give him the preference to all others who made their addresses to her; and if she could not as yet entirely overcome her aversion to entering a second time into the bands of marriage, she however resolved not to change her condition except in favour of him.

Miss Wingman was in a situation

N 2 very

very different from that of her sister. This young lady was of a humour extremely gay and volatile; she had never been at the pains of examining into the emotions of her own heart; but she now found out a secret there which had hitherto been concealed as much from herself as from the world: those alarms with which she had been agitated at first on the accusation against Lord Huntley, and the pleasure she had since felt in the assurances given her by Sir Robert Manley and Mr. Lovegrove, that it would be easy for him to prove his innocence, equally convinced her that he was not altogether so indifferent to her as she had imagined; and this it was which, perhaps, more than obedience to her mother's commands, made her so eager to return to London, where she thought she might soon be informed of the whole truth of this affair.

But poor Jenny laboured under sensations of a yet more unquiet nature: she had the confirmation of her lover's infidelity under his own hand; and whether he was guilty to the degree she had at first believed, of courting another woman upon honourable terms, yet he could not but appear extremely criminal in the attempt of purchasing the favour of one he intended only for a mistress, with the contempt of those solemn engagements he was bound in to herself.

In what other sense, indeed, was it possible for her to understand the first paragraph in that letter, which by his mistake in the superscription, had fallen into her hands? 'Here is no room for doubt,' cried she; 'the meaning is obvious and explicit; his heart renounces the obligation his father laid him under, and which his own perjured tongue a thousand times has sworn he wished no greater blessing than to fulfil.'

'The ungrateful man,' continued she, 'shall find no difficulty in getting rid of me; I shall spare him the pains of seeking a pretence to break off an engagement now grown so irksome to him; nor shall I envy the woman to whom his faithless heart is next devoted. I shall always reflect on a distich I remember to have read in the works of old Michael Drayton:

"He that can falsify his vows to one,  
Will be sincerely just and true to none."

Thus in some moments did she feel a kind of satisfaction in this early discovery of the inconstancy of his temper; others again representing her with the idea of what she once believed him, all that was just, generous, virtuous, and sincere, threw her into the most melancholy musings: every innocent endearment that had passed between them from their tenderest infancy till this great period, came fresh into her memory, and made her deeply regret the finding him so much unworthy either of her love or friendship.

It is certain that, besides the vivacity and flow of spirits which are generally the companions of youth and affluence of fortune, and keep affliction from seizing too forcibly on the vitals, she stood in need of all the good understanding she was endowed with to enable her to sustain the shock of Jemmy's infidelity with that cheerfulness she wished to do. In spite of all her endeavours, she would sometimes fall into reveries which demanded other helps than those she received from within herself, to rouse her from them entirely. Though the natural sprightliness of Lady Speck and her sister was very much abated, in the one by the secret remorse she felt for the encouragement she had given to Celandine, and in the other by her suspense on account of Lord Huntley; yet neither of them were so taken up with their own cogitations as to neglect any thing in their power to dissipate the languor they observed in their fair friend.

But as it was Jemmy who had been the sole cause of her disquiet, so it was to him alone she was now indebted for her relief: the night before their departure she received a letter from him containing these lines.

'TO MISS JESSAMY, AT BATH.

'MY DEAR, DEAR JENNY!

'I Am so happy as just to snatch an opportunity of acquainting you that the wedding is over. I wish to Heaven that the revels for it were so too, that I might be at liberty to get away; for, besides the impatience I am in to see you, I am quite sick of the incessant noisy mirth of those who come to testify their joy on this occasion: I doubt not but they take me for the most dull, stupid fellow, in the universe; and, indeed how should it be

‘be otherwise? In the midst of dancing, drinking, laughing, romping, I am absent; my heart is with you at Bath, and representing to me the more true felicities I might enjoy in your dear conversation. They tell me this hurry is to continue no longer than six days; but I think that an age; and nothing but my gratitude to my old friend, for the care he has taken of my affairs, should keep me a prisoner here for half that time. Be assured, that as soon as I can get free, I shall do little more than pass through London in my way towards you; so that if I am deprived of participating with you in the pleasures of the place you are in, I shall at least have that of conducting you home; till when, I hope, I need say nothing to convince you, that I am inviolably, and for ever, my dear Jenny’s most affectionate and devoted

‘J. JESSAMY.

HAM-HALL:

‘P. S. When we meet, you may expect a particular detail of what passes here, and some description of the bride, who has indeed a fine outside, but I am afraid wants a little of my dear Jenny’s understanding. Harry, however, finds no defect in her as yet, and I heartily wish, for both their sakes, he never may. Every man’s lot is not so happy as mine. Once more, my dear Jenny, adieu for a short time!’

This letter was a kind of clue to guide Jenny through the labyrinth of perplexity she had been involved in. She knew very well that one of the gentlemen, appointed by the last will and testament of Jemmy’s father for his executor and trustee, had a seat called Ham-Hall, in Bedfordshire. She had also heard that his son was about being married to a young lady of that county with a considerable fortune; she therefore easily conceived that the engagement mentioned by Jemmy in that former epistle, and which she imagined he had meant with herself, was in reality no other than being obliged to go down into the country on account of this wedding.

She immediately imparted to her two friends the letter she had received, and also gave them, at the same time, an ex-

planation of the mystery which had given her so much pain. Both of them sincerely congratulated her on the occasion, especially Miss Wingman, who took her in her arms, crying out—‘Did not I tell you, my dear, that Mr. Jessamy was not so guilty as you imagined?’—‘Aye,’ replied Jenny, ‘but for all that he is not quite innocent; nor will he find me very easy to give him absolution.’

‘If criminal in no greater matters than a transient amour,’ rejoined Lady Speck, ‘I think you might forgive him, without putting him to the penance even of a blush by your reproaches. In good truth, we women have nothing to do with the men’s affairs in this point before marriage; and as I now begin to believe, in spite of all I have heard to the contrary, that he addresses no other woman than yourself upon honourable terms, these are but venial transgressions, which you ought to overlook till you have made him your own.’

They were discoursing in this pleasant manner when Mr. Lovegrove entered; he came to pass the evening with them, knowing their things being all packed up for their journey, they would not go abroad any more while they staid at Bath.

Talking of the hour in which they intended to set out, he said that he was extremely glad to know it, because he would give orders for a post-chaise to be ready exactly at the same time, that he might not have the mortification of being left behind them even for a moment.

Though he directed these words to the ladies in general, yet Lady Speck knew very well they were meant only to herself; and, looking on him with the most obliging air—‘No, Mr. Lovegrove,’ said she, ‘since you will needs be so complaisant as to accompany us, I see no occasion for your travelling in the way you mention. As your own coach is not here, and there is a vacant place in mine, I am very certain we shall all be pleased to have it so agreeably filled.’

He was so transported with this offer, that he could not restrain himself from catching hold of her hand, and kissing it with the most passionate gestures. ‘This is a condescension, Madam,’ said he, ‘which I never durst have

‘ have presumed to hope, much less to  
 ‘ have requested; but it is the peculiar  
 ‘ property of Heaven to prevent the  
 ‘ petitions of it’s vassals, by blessings  
 ‘ the most unexpected, as well as un-  
 ‘ deserved.’

Miss Wingman and Jenny, finding they were likely to enter into a conversation which required no sharers, withdrew to a window, as if to look at something that passed in the street. How far Mr. Lovegrove improved this opportunity is not material to particularize. The reader will easily suppose, that neither that nor Lady Speck’s good-humour were thrown away upon him.

#### CHAP. X.

IS A DIGRESSION OF NO CONSEQUENCE TO THE HISTORY, AND MAY THEREFORE EITHER BE READ OR OMITTED AT DISCRETION.

THE sun had made but a very short progress in his diurnal course, when Lady Speck, Miss Wingman, and the amiable Jenny, accompanied by Mr. Lovegrove, set out on their journey for London, escorted by Landy and all their men-servants on horseback.

Our fair travellers soon found the advantage they had gained by the invitation given to Mr. Lovegrove; the innate satisfaction that gentleman felt on Lady Speck’s obliging behaviour towards him, diffused itself through all his air and features, and added a double vivacity to his conversation: he was all life, all gaiety, all spirits; he told a thousand diverting stories, and sung as many pretty songs; so that if they had been more inclined to seriousness than they really were, it would have been impossible for them to have indulged any melancholy reflections in his company.

The day was near passed over in this agreeable manner, when a sudden stop was put to all their pleasantries: one of the hindermost wheels of the coach flew off it’s axis, and but for the coachman’s uncommon presence of mind, in restraining the horses that same instant, some mischief might probably have ensued: all the servants immediately alighted, endeavouring to repair the da-

mage, but in vain; part of the iron-work was broke, and two spokes of the wheel had started with the shock. This accident happened about five miles from the town where they had designed to lie that night: but as there was a small village pretty near, it was judged proper to walk thither, as the only expedient in this exigence; which they did with a great deal of alacrity and chearfulness, while the dismembered machine, though with some difficulty, was dragged after them.

The accommodation they found here was indifferent enough; but what deficiencies are there in nature or in fortune which good-humour cannot supply? The ladies laughed heartily at their pilgrimage: and Mr. Lovegrove made them all scamper about the room by attempting to wipe the dust off their shoes with his handkerchief.

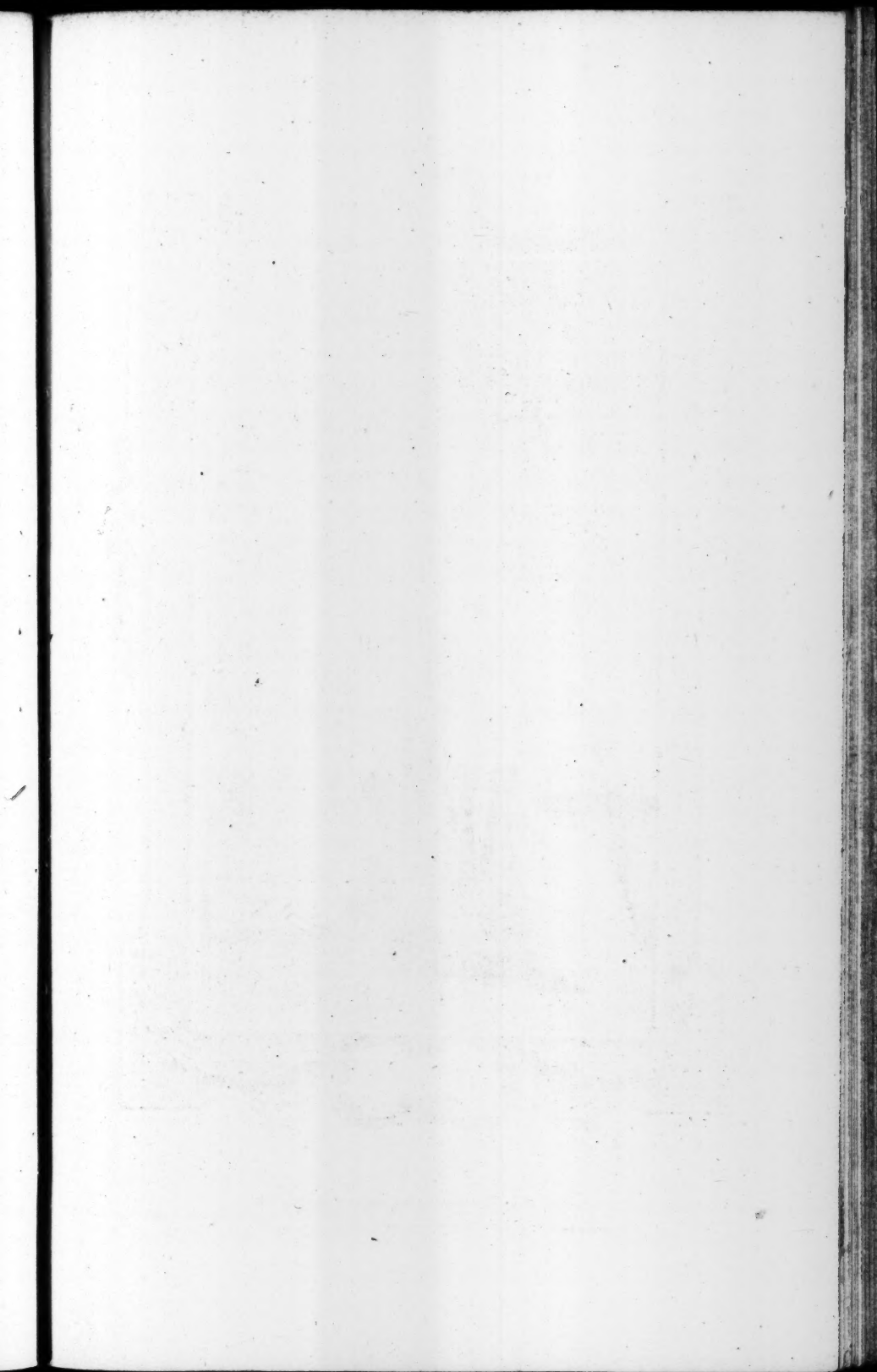
In fine, their supper, their lodgings, all that to persons of less wit and more affectation would have been matters of the utmost mortification, to them served only as subjects of diversion, and occasioned pleasantries.

They arose the next morning in the same chearful temper with which they had lain down; nor did it abate on being told that the workmen who had been sent for to mend the coach could not pretend to make it fit to take the road for several hours. As the place they were in afforded no other convenience to prosecute their journey, they resolved to make a virtue of necessity, and content themselves with what was without a remedy. Mr. Lovegrove, however, took upon himself the office of caterer, and was so fortunate as to provide an entertainment somewhat less inelegant than they had been obliged to content themselves with the night before.

But, while dinner was getting ready, an accident happened which contributed to make the time of their abode there seem the shorter, by presenting them with a new theme of conversation.

The woman who kept the house, after having gently opened the door of the room where they were, came in making a curtsy at every step she took, and approached the ladies with an—  
 ‘ I beg pardon; I hope no offence: but  
 ‘ I have a poor guest below that would  
 ‘ have me to come up. I am very tender hearted; though God knows what  
 ‘ she is, or who she is; for my part, I  
 ‘ never







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‘ never saw her before last night in my whole life, so I have nothing to answer for on that account; and if she be bad, it is the worse for herself; that is all I have to say.’

‘ If you have nothing more to say, mistress,’ cried Mr. Lovegrove laughing, ‘ I think you are very much to blame to lose your time in telling us.’ — ‘ I hope your lordship’s worship and all their ladyships will excuse me; I am but a plain woman; but, God knows my heart, I mean no harm: but, as I was saying, a poor young woman finding I had quality in my house, has been baiting me this two hours, I am sure, to shew you a snuff-box she had got to sell; how she came by it, I cannot tell; but this I must say, that she does not look like a thief; though there are such sad doings in the world, that one does not know who to trust.’

‘ Let us see it, however,’ said Lady Speck. ‘ Aye, aye,’ rejoined the others; ‘ let us see it, by all means.’ On this the woman produced the box, though not without repeating several times over her former apologies.

The box was a most curious English pebble, set in gold, with a hinge and lining of the same metal; they handed it from one to the other, and concluded, that as it was a toy too genteel for the possession of a person in very abject circumstances, it must either be stolen, or the real owner be reduced by some uncommon distress to the necessity of parting with it.

‘ This,’ said she, ‘ is the young woman; she says she came very honestly by the box: as I told your honours before, I know nothing of the matter; she is quite a stranger to me, but I shall leave her with you; and if your honour and ladyships’ worships will be pleased to examine her, you mayhap will be better judges than I am. For my part, I have a great deal of business to do, and cannot be spared any longer from my bar and my kitchen; indeed, there is nobody but myself to take care of any thing in this house, though I have a husband, and daughter at woman’s estate, as I may say, for she is past fourteen; yet all lies upon me; so I hope your honours will excuse me.’

It may be easily imagined that all the company were very glad to get rid

of her impertinent babble, so readily dismissed her; Mr. Lovegrove telling her at the same time, with an ironical complaisance, that he was extremely troubled she had wasted so many of her important minutes on so trivial an occasion.

After this prating woman was gone, the young person she had left behind, and who had entered no farther than just within the door, on being desired to come forward, advanced with a slow and timid air, yet which had nothing in it of the appearance of a conscious guilt: notwithstanding the disguise of an old-fashioned long riding-hood, which covered her whole body, and even hid some part of her lovely face, there was still enough to be seen to prepossess any beholder in her favour.

Her extreme youth, for she seemed not to have exceeded fifteen or sixteen years at farthest, the delicacy of her complexion, and of those features which she suffered to be exposed to view, excited a kind of respectful compassion in the hearts of all those she was at present with.

Mr. Lovegrove, who had undertaken to be the speaker, began with asking her, if she was the owner of the box before them; to which the answering in the affirmative—‘ I am very sorry, then,’ said he, ‘ and I am certain that all here are so, that any exigence should oblige you to dispose of it.’

‘ The vicissitudes of fortune, Sir,’ replied she, with a becoming assurance, ‘ are too frequently experienced in the affairs of life to raise much wonder, or to know much pity, except from the hearts of a generous few.’

‘ That is true,’ resumed Mr. Lovegrove; ‘ but you are too young to have been subjected to them by any of those ways the fickle goddess ordinarily takes to shew her power over the world: the distress you labour under must therefore proceed from some uncommon source, which if you thought proper to communicate, I dare answer you are now among persons who would not only wish, but also make it their endeavour, to lessen the weight of your affliction.’

She was about to make some reply, but was prevented by Lady Speck, who immediately subjoined to what Mr. Lovegrove had said—‘ There is nothing wanting,’ cried she, ‘ but the knowledge

\* knowledge of your affairs to make me shew my readiness to serve you.' The other two ladies spoke much to the same purpose, especially Jenny, who had taken more than an ordinary fancy to this fair-one.

After having thanked them in the politest terms for their goodness to one so altogether a stranger to them—'The accidents of my life,' said she, 'are little worthy the attention of this company; but since I am commanded to repeat them, I shall make no scruple to obey, on condition I may be permitted to conceal the names of all the persons concerned in them.'

They then assured her that they should content themselves with such things as she thought proper to impart; and, making her sit down, desired she would not delay one moment the satisfaction she had promised; which request she complied with, as will be seen in the succeeding chapter.

#### CHAP. XI.

IS A CONTINUATION OF THE SAME DIGRESSION, WHICH, HOWEVER INSIGNIFICANT IT MAY APPEAR AT PRESENT, THE READER WILL HEREAFTER, PERHAPS, BE GLAD TO TURN BACK TO THE PAGES IT CONTAINS.

THE young stranger having been made acquainted, before her coming up stairs, of the rank and condition of the persons to whom she was about to be introduced, would not suffer herself to be any farther entreated by them, but began to satisfy the curiosity she had excited in these or the like words.

'I am the daughter of a gentleman,' said she, 'who, by living in his youth above the income of his estate, has been reduced to live below the dignity of his birth, in order that his children may not, at his decease, have too much cause to regret the situation in which they shall be left.'

'It is impossible for any parent to behave with greater tenderness and indulgence, or to be more sincerely anxious for the welfare of his posterity. Sensible of his former mistakes, he has often condescended to tell us, that he looks upon us as persons he has wronged, by having wasted what should have rendered

comfortable the life he gave. His affairs, however, are not on so ill a footing but that he supports his family in a genteel, though not in a grand manner; and if he lives a few years longer, it is hoped will be able to leave the estate to my brother, now a student at Cambridge, born to inherit, free from all incumbrance, except myself and a sister some years older, than either of us.

'As for a provision for myself and sister, I have heard him say that his scheme is, as soon as my brother arrives at a proper age, to match him with some woman of fortune; which fortune should equally be divided between us two, and a settlement made for her out of the estate.

'He never flattered himself with the expectations of any offers of marriage to our advantage; and though he gave us all the accomplishments befitting our station in life, yet did he never encourage either of us to imagine that without money we had anything in us capable of attracting a heart worthy our acceptance.

'But to my great misfortune, he found himself mistaken in this point. A gentleman of a very large estate, happening to see me at a friend's house where I sometimes visited, took an extraordinary fancy to me; and after some necessary enquiries concerning my birth, character, and circumstances, came to wait upon my father, and asked his permission to make his addresses to me; adding, at the same time, that he desired nothing but myself; and whatever fortune was intended for me might be given to my sister.

'This last was a prevailing argument with my father, who, dear as I believe I then was to him, would perhaps have rather suffered me to lose so advantageous a match, than have confessed his incapacity of giving me a portion.

'But how fatal did this act of generosity in my lover prove to me! My father, charmed with the proposal, hesitated not to comply with it, provided my consent might be obtained; which in his heart he resolved from that moment to compel me to grant, in case he should find me refractory to it.

'It will doubtless seem a little strange



‘to you,’ continued she, ‘that I should mention as a misfortune what you might expect a girl in my precarious situation would have rejoiced at, and been elated with, as the greatest good that could have befallen her: the world I know condemn my folly; I condemn myself; yet was it as impossible for me to act otherwise, as it is to repent of what I have done.

‘You will perhaps imagine that he is some deformed and loathsome creature, but I assure you he is not; for I must do him the justice to acknowledge, that, making an allowance for his age, which by his own account is pretty near fifty, few men can boast of having a more agreeable person; that he has also a good understanding, a great deal of ready wit, and is very facetious in conversation: but all this was insufficient to engage my affection; and I have a certain delicacy in my nature, if I may so call it, which will not permit me, on any consideration whatever, to give my hand where my heart will not go along with it.

‘The astonishment I felt on being first informed of the new conquest I had made, was succeeded by an adequate proportion of horror at being commanded by my father to receive that gentleman as the person ordained by Heaven and him to be my husband, and to look on such an alliance as the greatest blessing that could be bestowed upon me.

‘I blushed, I trembled, and had not power to make the least reply, till being urged to speak, I recollected, as well as I was able, my scattered senses; and cried, though with a broken and faltering voice, that I was too young to think of marriage; to which my father sternly answered—“Be guided, then, by those who know how to think for you;” and with these words left me to consider on what he had said.

‘The same day my lover dined with us, as I afterwards found, by the appointment of my father; who, as soon as the cloth was taken away, retired to his closet, pretending he had some letters to write, and left me to entertain this guest, or rather to be entertained by him with the declaration of his passion.

‘He made it, indeed, in the most

‘respectful terms: he told me, that having lost his wife in bringing a son into the world, he had resolved never to transfer the affection for her to any other woman; that he devoted near two and twenty years to her memory; that, during the whole time of his widowhood, he had never seen that face, till mine, which had the power to alienate his thoughts from the grave where she lay buried; but that he no sooner beheld me, than he felt new life and new desires rekindling in him; remembered that he was a man, born to enjoy the social delights of pure and virtuous love, and at the same time found it was with me alone he could partake them.

‘As this sort of conversation, and, indeed, every thing relative to love, was entirely new to me, I made but very awkward replies; and was so little able to express my real sentiments to him on that head, that I afterwards found he took what I said as the effects of simplicity and bashfulness, rather than any aversion either to him or his proposals.

‘My father, who, poor man! rejoiced in this opportunity of making my fortune, seemed highly pleased with the account my lover gave him of my behaviour: he told me I was a very good girl, and that he doubted not but that I should deserve the happiness Heaven was about to confer upon me. “But,” said he, “though the modesty with which I hear you receive this first declaration was very becoming in a maid of your years; yet, as we have agreed the wedding shall be consummated in a few days, I would have you grow less reserved on every visit he makes to you: accustom yourself to treat him, by degrees, with more freedom, to the end that, when you are made one, you may not be too much strangers to each other.”

‘This so frightened me, that I could not forbear crying out, with some vehemence—“Oh, Sir! I conjure you not to talk in this manner! I never can think of being married to him!”

‘The look my father gave me at these words will always be imprinted on my memory. “Never think of being married to him!” said he; then never think I am your father;

Q

“think

"think rather of being an utter alien,  
 "an out-cast from my name and family!  
 "Think of begging, starving;  
 "of infamy, contempt, and wretchedness!"

"These cruel expressions coming  
 "from the mouth of a parent, who,  
 "till now, had always used me with  
 "the extreme tenderness, cut me to  
 "the very soul: I threw myself at his  
 "feet; I wept; I beseeched him to  
 "moderate his passion; and protested,  
 "as I might do with the greatest sincerity,  
 "that the thought of offending  
 "him was more terrible to me than  
 "that of death itself.

"He appeared somewhat mollified  
 "with these submissions. "Child,"  
 "said he, raising me from the posture I  
 "was in, "you cannot be so ignorant  
 "as not to know what I do in this affair;  
 "fair is wholly for your happiness;  
 "though, indeed, whenever Heaven is  
 "pleased to call me hence, it would be  
 "an infinite satisfaction to me in my  
 "dying moments that I left one of my  
 "daughters independent. — I could  
 "wish," added he, looking towards  
 "my sister, who sat at work in the room,  
 "that she had an offer equally advantageous."

"If I had, Sir" replied she pertly, "I  
 "should scarce be so mad or silly as to  
 "run the risk of disobliging you,  
 "and, at the same time, of ruining  
 "myself by refusing it."

The beautiful stranger was in this  
 part of her little history, when she found  
 herself obliged to break off by seeing  
 dinner brought upon the table. She  
 would have withdrawn till the company  
 should be more at leisure; but they  
 insisted, in the most strenuous  
 terms, that she would be their guest;  
 to which, after making some few apologies,  
 she consented.

## CHAP. XII.

### CONCLUDES THE DISTRESSFUL NARRATIVE.

AS the waiters were present, nothing  
 was said, during the whole time  
 of dinner, concerning the subject which  
 that necessary appendix to life had interrupted;  
 but the cloth was no sooner  
 taken away, than the three ladies, as  
 well as Mr. Lovegrove, testified the in-

terest they took in their fair guest's affairs  
 by their impatience for knowing  
 the event.

She replied to the many complaisant  
 things they said to her with such an air,  
 and grace as convinced them, more than  
 any thing she had related, that she had  
 indeed been educated in the most genteel  
 manner, and also been accustomed to  
 converse with persons of the best fashion  
 and greatest politeness.

But, though the discourse that passed  
 between them, on the score of mere civility,  
 might very well deserve a place in  
 this work, I shall omit the repetition,  
 as it might be apt to make the reader's  
 attention to wander from the main  
 point; and only say, that she prosecuted  
 her history in the following terms.

"My father," said she, "now descended  
 "to talk to me in the mildest,  
 "and withal in the most pathetic style;  
 "he endeavoured to allure my young  
 "heart by enumerating and displaying  
 "the pleasures that attend on wealth  
 "and grandeur. He remonstrated to  
 "me, that the circumstances of our family  
 "would not permit his children,  
 "especially his daughters, to be directed  
 "only by inclination in the article  
 "of marriage; and that, as I could  
 "find no possible objection to my lover  
 "but being somewhat too old, gratitude  
 "for the happiness he was ready  
 "to put me in possession of might very  
 "well atone for that defect.

"You say you cannot love this gentleman,"  
 "continued he; "but, pray,  
 "what is this passion that is called love  
 "but a vain delusion, an *ignis fatuus*  
 "of the mind, that leads all that follow  
 "it astray? Suppose, rejecting the  
 "certain good fortune now put into  
 "your power, you should hereafter fix  
 "your fancy either on some one who  
 "has not the means of supporting you,  
 "or on one who returns not your affection,  
 "how truly miserable would  
 "be your state!"

"I could find no arguments to oppose  
 "against those he urged, and could only  
 "answer with my tears; till, being bid  
 "to speak, and the command several  
 "times repeated, I at last sobbed out,  
 "that I would make use of my utmost  
 "endeavours to obey him.

"I know not whether his menaces at  
 "first, and his persuasions afterwards,  
 "might not have made me, at that time,  
 "promise to do every thing he would  
 "have

have me; but some company coming in, luckily preserved me from adding to the guilt of disobedience that of deceit.

These visitors staid with us till very late; so I was relieved from any farther persecutions for that night: but the next morning, at breakfast, they were renewed; and, as I had no heart to consent, nor courage absolutely to refuse, I could only beg him to allow me a little time to bring my mind to a conformity with his will.

It is certain that my aversion to this match seemed unreasonable even to myself, and I did all I could to conquer it; but my efforts to that purpose being fruitless, I set myself to consider, whether to live under the everlasting displeasure of a father whom I revered and loved, perhaps be turned out of doors by him, and exposed to poverty and contempt, or to pass my whole life in opulence with the man I hated, would be the least of evils.

Oh, ladies! how impossible is it to represent what it was I felt while thus employed! To whichever of these ways I turned my thoughts, I was all horror and confusion: the present idea seemed still the worst; I was distracted, irresolute, and fluctuated between both; and all I knew of myself was, that I was wholly incapable of supporting either.

To heighten my affliction, though I had many acquaintances, I had no one friend on whom I could depend for assistance or advice. My sister, who, by the rules of nature, should have pitied my distress, rather added to it by all the ways she could invent.

Indeed, she never loved me; and, I have reason to believe, I owe great part of my father's severity to her insinuations. I will tell you an incident which confirms me in that belief: it was this.

The very Sunday before the misfortune I am now reciting befel me, a young gentleman happened to sit in a pew just opposite to mine: he fixed his eyes upon me with so much earnestness during the whole time of divine service, that I could not help observing him with some confusion. After we came out of church, turning my head back upon some occa-

sion, I perceived he followed me, though at a distance; but when I came near our door, the footman who attended me stepping before to knock, he advanced hastily, and came time enough to make me a profound reverence just as I was entering the house. I was a little confounded, as I had never seen him before. I returned his civility, however, and went in. My sister, who had not been at church that day, was looking out of a window, and beheld this passage: she railled me a little upon it, and asked me who that pretty fellow was that came to the door with me. I told her the simple truth, and it passed off till we were going to bed; when one of the maids told me, in her presence, a fine young gentleman had watched the footman as he was going on some errand, and asked him a bundance of questions concerning me. I thought it a little strange, but said nothing; nor did my sister seem to take much notice of it.

I thought little of this adventure; but found she afterwards made a handle of it, not only to possess my father with an opinion that I rejected the lover he recommended to me for the sake of one who was my own choice, but also to reproach me as having encouraged a clandestine courtship.

I mention this only to shew how destitute I was of any consolation whatever; but, in the midst of perturbations which almost deprived me of my senses, an expedient started at once into my head, which flattered me with some small prospect of relief.

My lover appeared to be a man who wanted neither good sense nor generosity; and I fancied that, if he knew the true state of my heart, the one would shew him the extreme madness of marrying a woman who had so utter a dislike to him; and the other make him ashamed of rendering miserable the person he pretended to love.

On this foundation I built my hopes; and resolved, on his next visit, to make him thoroughly acquainted with the deplorable condition to which I was reduced by his unfortunate passion; and to beseech him to withdraw his pretensions as of his own accord; and without hinting to

“ my father that any thing in my behaviour had been the cause.

“ But, alas! I had no sooner contrived this project, than I found the impracticability of putting it into execution. My father had a closet which opened from his bed-chamber; it was between that and the dining-room, and divided from the latter by a thin partition.

“ Good God! continued this afflicted fair-one, ‘ how every thing conspired against me! My father had always kept the key of this closet himself; but had now given it to my sister; and, I soon found, for no other purpose than that she should hear from thence what passed between me and my lover, and give him an account.

“ Though I only suspected this at first, yet was certain of it when, being called down from my chamber where I lay, to receive my lover, who waited for me in the dining-room, I saw, as I crossed the stair-case, the shadow of my sister passing hastily into the very closet I have mentioned.

“ The old gentleman was in great good-humour that day; and perhaps my tears and prayers might have worked on him the effect I wished, had I not been so unhappily disappointed of making the experiment.

“ Having taken notice, I suppose, that I wore no watch, though indeed I had one, but, it being out of order, was sent some time before to be mended, he brought with him a fine repeater set round with diamonds, and begged me to accept of it. As I knew who was witness of our conversation, I durst not refuse his present, and much less talk to him in the manner I had intended.

“ I knew not then what course to take; but, at last, bethought me of employing my pen to give him that information which my tongue was deprived of all opportunity of doing: accordingly I wrote to him in this manner.

“ SIR,  
“ IT is only in your power to save me from the worst of miseries; that of a forced marriage. My father is inexorable to my tears, and resolute to compel me to be yours; but not all his authority, your merits, nor my just sensibility of them,

“ can ever bring my heart to consent to the union you propose: in fine, I cannot love you as a husband, but shall always regard you as the best of friends, if you forego the claim paternal power has given you, and refuse that hand, the acceptance of which would infallibly make you no less wretched than myself. Consider, therefore, Sir, what it is you are about, and drive not an unhappy maid to desperation; for, be assured, I will seek relief in death rather than be yours.”

“ This I folded up; but neither sealed nor directed it, as I designed to slip it into his own hands as he should be going away from his next visit: but here again my scheme was frustrated, my father coming home before he went away, and waiting on him down stairs.

“ The ensuing day, however, I thought myself more fortunate. He came; and business calling him away somewhat before his usual hour, I followed to the dining-room, and gave him the paper, saying at the same time—“ I beseech you, Sir, to consider seriously on the contents of this, and make no mention of it to my father.”

“ He looked very much surprized, and seemed as if about to open what I gave him; but I clapped my hand hastily upon his, crying—“ For Heaven’s sake, take care what you do; this is no proper place!” And with these words turned quick into the room, to prevent any questions he might have made.

“ My heart fluttered a little at the step I had taken. Suspense is a very uneasy situation; but, as I thought it impossible that any man would venture to marry a woman who had wrote to him in the manner I had done, I grew more composed, and slept much better that night than for several preceding ones.

“ But, oh! how short-lived was my ease, and how terrible a surcharge of woe did the next day present me with! My father, who went out soon after breakfast, returned not till the cloth was laid for dinner, and then only to tell me that he had been with my lover all the morning; that every thing was concluded between them;

“ and



and that the marriage should be solemnized at our house the evening of the succeeding day.

‘ Judge, ladies, of my condition! The convict at the bar feels not more horror at the sentence of approaching fate than I did at the event which I had vainly flattered myself was far removed from me: the amazement I was in kept me for some moments in a kind of stupid silence. My father was so taken up in directing my sister what preparations she should make for this affair, that he regarded not my confusion, till grief and despair unloosed my tongue; and I cried out—“ Oh, Sir! did you not say I should have time?”

“ Time!” replied he; “ can any time be more lucky for you than this, when you are going to have the same settlement as if you brought ten thousand pounds? Your lover is so pleased with the pretty trick you played him last night, that, I believe, I might have got more for you if I had insisted upon it: but this was his own offer; and it is very well. We are going together to my lawyer’s, to order the writings.”

‘ My sister then asked him if he would not dine; to which he answered in the negative: and, after giving her some farther instructions, left us to return to his intended son-in-law, who, he said, waited for him at the chocolate-house.

‘ Dinner was presently brought in: I sat down, but could not eat a bit. My sister, who, since the death of my mother, had been housekeeper, and affected to be very notable, talked of nothing but the hurry she should be in; and what should be the first, and what should be the second, course of the wedding-supper: for though there were but two or three friends to be invited, yet my father had ordered that every thing of this dreadful ceremony should be set forth with as much elegance as possible.

‘ On my making no reply to all she said, she told me I was a fullen fool, and did not deserve my good fortune. I had no spirit to enter into any altercation with her; so flung from the table, and retired to my chamber, to vent those cruel agitations with which I was now more than ever overwhelmed.

‘ The first reflections that occurred to me were on this hated lover’s being pleased with the paper I had given him, and telling my father that I had played him a pretty trick. “ What!” cried I to myself, “ is it not enough that he neglects my complaints? Must he also insult me for them, and turn my grief into derision?”

‘ But I had no time to waste on this subject: my doom was fixed; and I must either fly or tamely submit to it. I resolved on the former, whatever should be the consequence; and now thought of nothing but the means of accomplishing it.

‘ It was not long before I determined on what course to take. I have an aunt married to a merchant at Corke; I believe she will grant me her protection. I am going, however, to make the experiment; and, if she refuses, must content myself to earn my bread either by going to service, or working at my needle.’

### CHAP. XIII.

MAY PROPERLY ENOUGH COME UNDER THE DENOMINATION OF AN APPENDIX TO THE THREE LAST PRECEDING CHAPTERS, AS CONTAINING SOME THINGS WHICH OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN INSERTED IN THEM.

THE fair fugitive now thought she had related all that was expected from her; but Lady Speck, perceiving she had done speaking, prevented what any of the rest of the company would have said on that occasion, by crying hastily—“ Madam, you have not given us an account of the manner of your escaping the misfortune you so much dreaded: we see you here, but know not by what means you are so, without which your history will be imperfect.”

‘ As I may, perhaps, have been too circumstantial in some parts of my narrative,’ replied she, ‘ I was cautious not to weary out your patience by any farther particulars of an event so little deserving your regard; but, as you are so good to afford me your attention, I shall readily make you a detail of whatever passed from the moment of my resolving to fly from  
‘ my

‘ my father’s house to that of my arrival at a place where I have the honour to be so generously entertained: and I am the more glad to do it, as there is indeed one thing which, in common justice to the gentleman who made his addressee to me, I ought not to have omitted.

‘ As to my departure,’ pursued she, ‘ nothing was more easily to be accomplished. No one suspected I had any thoughts of it; so no care was taken to prevent my flight, either by confining my person, or setting any body to observe my motions: but I was willing to take such of my things as I could conveniently carry with me.

‘ This required some contrivance: there was no possibility of sending a trunk or portmanteau out of the house; therefore found I was obliged to leave every thing behind me which I could not be the porter of myself.

‘ My sister was mighty busy all that afternoon in her domestick affairs. I employed that time in looking over my wearing apparel; and made the first assortment of them I could, selecting those which I thought I could least support the want of. My fine laces I crammed into a handkerchief, in order to put into my pockets; and the more bulky part of my linen, with some upper-garments, I tied in two pillow-cases; and then essayed whether I could carry them on each side under my hoop-petticoat, and found I could do it very well. Certainly these vast hoops were invented chiefly for the conveniency of those who carry about them what they want should be concealed!’

Not only Mr. Lovegrove, but the ladies themselves, laughed heartily at this reflection on their mode; but they would not interrupt her; and she went on.

‘ Finding I was able to walk under the burdens I had prepared, at least as far as out of sight of our house, I put them all together into a large trunk, packed up as they were, ready to march next morning; for I thought it not advisable to go that night, as lying at any house in town might endanger a discovery; and I knew that no carriage of any kind would set out before day-break.

‘ After this I had sat down and considered what more was to be done be-

‘ fore I went away. My father, till now, had always been most indulgent to me; humoured me in every thing; and even this last act of power, cruel as it was, I knew was kindly meant; I could not therefore think of leaving him, perhaps for ever, without letting him see I had not quite forgot the reverence I owed him.

‘ I then took pen and paper, and wrote a letter to him: I cannot remember exactly the expressions I made use of, but know they were as pathetick as could be dictated by a heart overflowing, as mine was, with filial love and grief.

‘ I told him that I had exerted the whole force of my endeavours to obey him; that my reason and the insurmountable aversion I had to the match he proposed, had occasioned conflicts in my breast which life could scarce sustain; that I fled not from the presence of the best of fathers, but to avoid being guilty of a deed which would have been yet more grievous to him; begged him to forgive me, and to rest assured, that to what exigencies soever I might be reduced in this forlorn and helpless condition, nothing should tempt me to bring disgrace upon my family, or dishonour to myself.

‘ Having finished this melancholy epistle, I threw it into the drawer of a little escrutoire, designing to take it with me in the morning, and send it to my father by the penny-post; but, good God! how great was my confusion, when happening to look over some writings I have here, I know not for what reason, for I had nothing which I feared should be exposed after I was gone, one of the first things I laid my hands on was the very paper I had wrote to my lover, and thought I had given to him!

‘ I did not presently conceive how this could be. I knew I had wrote no copy, and that it was the same which I had been certain of having delivered to him; but at last I remembered, that not being able to give it to him on the day I intended, I had put it into this drawer to prevent it’s being seen by any accident; and this recollection convinced me, that, instead of a letter of complaint, he had received from me a foolish love-song, though set to very good musick, which a lady of my

“ my acquaintance had desired me to write out for her; and I thought, as I could not find it, I had dropt it from my pocket. It begins thus:

“ Dearest Damon, would you shew

“ What a faithful man can do,

“ Love me ever,

“ Leave me never.”

She was proceeding, but Mr. Lovegrove was so highly diverted with this incident, that he could not forbear interrupting her. “ By heavens, Madam,” said he, “ it would have been cruel in you to have made us lose so agreeable a part of your history!”

The ladies expressed themselves in much the same manner. “ I cannot help laughing,” cried Lady Speck, “ to think of the old gentleman’s transports on receiving so fond a remembrance from his young mistress.”—“ Nor I,” subjoined Miss Wingman, “ at the idea how much he must be mortified when he found himself deceived.”—“ For my part,” said Jenny, in a more serious air, “ I pity the poor man, and am heartily sorry for the lady, who, but for this mistake, might not, perhaps, have been driven to the necessity of quitting her father’s house.”

“ It is utterly impossible, Madam,” replied the other, resuming the thread of her discourse, “ to know what would have happened, had this not been the case. I was, however, so much shocked at the thoughts of what I had done, that I resolved to let him continue in his error no longer than I had it in my power to convince him of it. To this end I enclosed the letter I had designed for him in another piece of paper, in which I wrote, I think, to this effect:

“ SIR,

“ THE silly paper, which by mistake I put into your hands, must certainly have given you a very odd opinion both of my understanding and sincerity.

“ This will, however, undeceive you as to the latter, by shewing you I meant not to disguise the true situation of my heart, which had you sooner known, perhaps I might not have been the wretch I am; but it is now too late; and all the hopes I flat-

tered myself with from your generosity and compassion are vanished into air.

“ Yes, Sir, the agreement made between my father and yourself drives me from all I once thought happiness; but beg you to believe that I shall always retain a grateful sense of the advantages offered me by your love, how miserable soever it has made me; and shall never cease to wish you may longer enjoy all those blessings in life which cruel destiny denies any part of to

“ The forlorn, &c.”

“ To this,” continued she, “ I added a postscript, to let him know that I left behind me the watch which he had been so good to present me with, and doubted not but my father would return it to him as soon as my flight should be discovered.

“ Having dispatched all that I thought necessary for my going, my mind for some moments was as easy and composed as if the preparations I had been making were only for a journey of pleasure; but, alas! the sad occasion soon recoiled upon me, and filled me with most gloomy apprehensions.

“ My father came home in the evening in so jocose a humour as hindered him from observing that melancholy which I could not else have been able to hide from him: he had, indeed, been drinking more freely than he was accustomed; and I found also by what he said, that my lover, by toasting my health too plentifully, had rendered himself incapable of waiting on me that night.

“ Nothing material happened afterwards to the time of my elopement, which every thing seemed to favour; my sister went very early in the morning to Covent Garden to buy fruit for the dessert, taking one of the men with her to bring home what purchases she made; the other was busy in cleaning the plate; all the maids were in the kitchen, and my father was yet in bed: so the coast being entirely clear, I tied my panniers to my sides, stuffed my pockets with as much as they would contain, and went directly out of the house without being seen by any body; though I believe whoever had met me would not have guessed in what manner I was equip-

ped.

'ped. I made all the haste I could out of the street, however; slept into the first hackney-coach I found, and drove to a place where I remembered to have seen second-hand cloaths hung up for sale; there I bought this riding-hood, which I thought would be some kind of a disguise.

'Bristol being just opposite to that part of Ireland where my aunt lives, I had no other route to take; but, in the hurry of my thoughts, had never once considered that as I had secured no place in the stage-coach, it was a thousand against one if there would be any room for me in it this season of the year.

'I did not forget, however, in my way to the inn, to put the letters I had wrote to my father and lover into the penny-post; but found, when I came there, the coach was not only full, but had set out above an hour before. This put me into great perplexity; but I was now embarked on an expedition, and must go through it some how or other. The Windsor stage was just going out, and had a place, which I gladly filled, in order to be so far on my journey.

'On my arrival there, I was at as great a loss as before; but being told that if I hired a chaise to Maidenhead, I might possibly find a place in some one or other of the coaches that put in there, I took this advice; but would not lie in that town, lest I should be seen by some persons of my acquaintance that lived there; so drove on to this village, which I thought would answer my purpose as well, as I should catch the coaches as they passed by this morning. I got up very early, that I might be ready for the first; for it was indifferent to me in which I went, provided they took the road I wanted to go; but my hopes deceived me; every one that came this way was full.

'But this was not the only, nor the worst disappointment I met with at this place. Having laid out what loose money I had about me, I thought to have recourse to my purse; in which, besides sufficient to defray the expenses of my journey, there was a diamond-ring which had been my mother's, and a medal which I set a high value upon: not finding it presently, I was very much alarmed. I

'pulled every thing out of my pockets that were in them, but the examination only served to convince me that what I sought was lost. I know not how this accident happened, nor is it of any importance.

'It is easy to conceive how terrible a misfortune this was to a person in my present circumstances. I should have been driven to the last despair, if a thought had not occurred to me, that the little box I took the liberty of sending by the woman of the house might be acceptable to some one or other of this company.'

Here ended all she had to say; but the conclusion was accompanied with some tears, which, notwithstanding robbed the eyes from which they fell of no part of their lustre.

#### CHAP. XIV.

CONTAINS MUCH MATTER FOR EDUCATION, BUT VERY LITTLE FOR ENTERTAINMENT.

THE distresses of a beautiful person have a double influence over the heart. Those misfortunes which the dignity of our nature oblige us to commiserate, excite a more kindly warmth, a more interested concern, in proportion to the loveliness of the object we see labouring under them.

There was something in the air and whole behaviour of this young stranger, which, joined to the calamity of her present condition, had a kind of magnetick force, capable of attracting both respect and compassion in minds less generous and gentle than those of the company she now was with.

They thanked her for the pleasure she had given them in the recital of her adventures, and at the same time testified the most affectionate concern for the event.

Each having expressed some part of their sentiments on this occasion, Lady Speck drew her sister and Jenny aside, and, after a short whisper between themselves, all returned to their seats; and the former addressing herself to their unfortunate guest, spoke in this manner:

'We cannot think, Madam,' said she, 'of depriving you of a thing which an unforeseen necessity has obliged



‘ obliged you to expose to sale; but if you please to receive a small contribution in lieu of a purchase, we shall take your acceptance as a favour done to ourselves.’

With these words her ladyship put six guineas into her hand, which she took, bowed, and blushed; though not half so much as Jenny did, who was extremely scandalized at the meanness of the present, though she did not think proper to discover her opinion of it at that time.

On this Mr. Lovegrove, who doubtless had his own reflections, cried hastily out—‘ Then, ladies, since you will not buy the box, I will; I have a mind to make a present of it to a lady.’—‘ I protest I will not have it,’ said Lady Speck. ‘ Nor I,’ rejoined Miss Wingman. ‘ Nor I,’ cried Jenny. ‘ You need not be under this agitation, ladies,’ replied he, smiling; ‘ for, I assure you, it neither was nor is my intention to make an offering of it to any of you.’

They all looked a little grave at hearing him speak in this manner, but said nothing; while he counted ten guineas out of his purse, and presented them to the fair fugitive with one hand, and with the other, in the same moment, took up the snuff-box, which had all this time lain on a side-board near which he sat. ‘ This, Madam,’ said he, ‘ is an equivalent, I believe.’

He then put the box into his pocket with a very serious air; but immediately taking it out again, laid it into the lap of the owner. ‘ You are the only person, Madam,’ said he, ‘ to whom I ought to make this present: be pleased to accept it as a token of my sincere respect for a lady who at your years can have behaved with so much fortitude and resolution.’

All the ladies were highly pleased at the gallant turn he had given to this affair; but the obliged person was so much overwhelmed with the sense she had of such an unexpected act of generosity, that she was able to express her gratitude only in broken and disjointed phrases; which, notwithstanding, Mr. Lovegrove would not suffer her to go on with; but asked her in what manner she now intended to prosecute her journey.

She replied, that as there was no wheel-carriage to be procured in that

village, she had thoughts of taking a man and horse to conduct her as far as Reading, where she was informed she might be sure of being better accommodated.

Though Mr. Lovegrove had no other view in this question than merely to turn the discourse, it proved a very fortunate one for the young traveller: on hearing the answer she made—‘ You need not,’ said Lady Speck, ‘ be at the pains or expence of hiring a man and horse, as we have enough of both standing idle. I doubt not but the woman of the house will readily provide a pillion; and you may ride behind one of my servants.’

This offer being too convenient, as well as obliging, not to be joyfully accepted, the lady immediately called for one of her servants, and gave him orders to do as she had said; adding withal, that when they came to Reading he should use his endeavours to assist the young lady he carried in getting a post-chaise for her to pursue her journey.

A very little time served for the execution of this command; and after the most becoming retributions on the one side, and sincere good wishes on the other, the fair stranger took her leave of a company among whom she had been so providentially thrown in a time of such distress.

Jenny, who had her head and heart a good deal taken up with what had passed, followed her down stairs; and making her step into a little room where they could not be overheard, surprized her with these words.

‘ I cannot express,’ said she, with the greatest sweetness in her voice and looks, ‘ how deeply I have been touched with your misfortunes, nor how much ashamed I am of the slender contribution made for your relief. Lady Speck is very good; and I never was more amazed than to hear her mention so pitiful a sum as two guineas a-piece; but as it was agreed to by her sister, I could not well oppose it without giving offence: I shall, however, never be able to remember this affair without blushing, if you do not allow me to make up some part of the deficiency.’

She accompanied the latter part of this speech with a present of five guineas, which the other shewed great unwillingness to accept; saying, she was

already overloaded with favours, and what she had received was more than sufficient for all the purposes she wanted: but Jenny told her, that she knew not what accidents might happen to a person at such a distance from her friends; and, in fine, forced her to take it; then, after giving her a most cordial embrace, left her, and returned to the company, without taking any notice of the occasion of her leaving them.

She found them animadverting on this adventure, which doubtless had something pretty extraordinary in it. Lady Speck was just saying how lucky a thing it was for the young stranger that she happened to come into the same inn where they were. 'It was so, indeed,' replied Jenny; 'and I think no less fortunate for us also, as the sight of her distress has given us an opportunity of doing what every one ought to rejoice in having the power to do.'

'Nothing can be more just, Madam, than this reflection of yours,' said Mr. Lovegrove; 'but I am sorry to have observed, that there are too many who have greatly the power without being blessed with the will to do the least good office: others again, who, though of a more beneficent disposition, confine their bounties within the narrow compass of their own acquaintance. Distress is not distress with them, unless the person who labours under it be known to them; forgetting that all mankind are but one family, descended originally from the same parents; that every individual is a branch from the same stock, and consequently have a kindred right to the protection of each other.'

'I was an ear witness not long ago,' continued he, 'of a very severe as well as genteel reprimand given to a peer of the first rank by a person in great distress, who had petitioned his lordship for relief, and to whom he sent for answer, that he knew nothing of him, and that he never gave any thing to strangers; on this the unfortunate person replied to him that delivered the message—"Then tell your lord that he will never relieve an angel."'

This worthy gentleman would perhaps have farther expatiated on the beauties of a mind extensively benevolent, if they had not been interrupted by

Landy, who came up to acquaint them the necessary repairs of the coach were now entirely finished. On hearing this, as there were yet some hours of daylight, they all agreed to go to Maidenhead that night; not only because they were sure of meeting with better accommodation than they had found here, but also for the sake of being so much the farther on their journey.

Every thing being got ready with all imaginable expedition, they departed from that village, where Lady Speck left orders that the servant who had been sent to conduct the young stranger should refresh himself there that night, and follow them early the next morning to Maidenhead.

#### CHAP. XV.

CANNOT FAIL OF GIVING AN AGREEABLE SENSATION TO EVERY HONEST AND GOOD-NATURED READER.

MISS Wingman, who, besides the natural affection she had for a mother who tenderly loved her, had always been bred in the strictest principles of duty and obedience to her, could not keep herself from being a little uneasy at the delay that had happened in their journey, fearing that indulgent parent might be under some apprehensions of her being detained by a worse accident than the real one, a day longer than she expected.

To relieve her as soon as possible, however, from the anxieties she might be under on this score, she made Landy, instead of stopping with them at Maidenhead, proceed directly, and with all the speed he could, towards London: the honest steward knowing his old lady's temper, was glad to be charged with this commission, assured the young one, that, as far as the day was advanced, he doubted not but he should be able to reach Windfor that night; and from thence, setting out early the next morning, carry Lady Wingman the joyful news of their approach several hours before the coach could possibly arrive.

This filial observance, in a young lady of Miss Wingman's gay and volatile disposition, appeared extremely amiable in the eyes both of Jenny and Mr.

Mr. Lovegrove; but I will not trouble the reader with any repetition of the many compliments they made to her upon the occasion, things of much greater moment requiring to be discussed.

Nothing worthy of obtaining a place in this history happening at present, I shall only say, they all came to Maidenhead perfectly well pleased with the change of their quarters; and that Mr. Lovegrove, to whose direction every thing was left, took care they should be made full amends that evening for the bad entertainment of the preceding one.

The servant, who had been sent to attend the fair fugitive, returned, according to the orders he had received, very early in the morning, and brought an account, that he had been so fortunate as to procure a handsome post-chaise for her, which was to carry her quite to Bristol.

Mr. Lovegrove, Jenny, and Miss Wingman, were all up and dressed; the equipage was ready: but Lady Speck, who loved to travel at her ease, not rising before her usual hour, they did not set out so soon as some of the company, her sister in particular, were impatient to do.

Notwithstanding this, the high metal of the horses, and skill of the conductor, brought them to London pretty early in the afternoon. Lady Speck, who thought herself under an indispensable duty of waiting on her mother before she went home, prevailed on Jenny and Mr. Lovegrove to accompany them; so the coachman was ordered to drive directly thither.

It cannot be doubted but that the good old lady received her two daughters with all the demonstrations of affection imaginable, and those they brought with them with the greatest complaisance; but after the first salutations were over—'I am sorry,' said she, turning to Lady Speck, 'that what I wrote to Kitty has made you and Miss Jessamy quit the pleasures of Bath, so much sooner than I believe either of you intended.'

'I am sorry, Madam,' replied she, 'for the occasion of your ladyship's writing in that manner.'—'So am not I,' cried a voice well known to all that were present; and immediately Lord Huntley, followed by Sir Tho-

mas Welby, rushed from an inner room, where they had withdrawn on the ladies coming up. 'The late cloud,' continued Lord Huntley, 'cast upon my honour, I hope will only serve to render it more bright in the eyes of those to whom I most desire it should be conspicuous.'

He then paid his compliments to each of the ladies, one after another, who were all of them so astonished at the sight of him, that they had not the power of uttering one word: this scene, in effect was so pleasant, that Sir Thomas Welby laughed till his sides shook; and Lady Wingman, in spite of her gravity, could not forbear smiling.

As Lord Huntley advanced to embrace Mr. Lovegrove—'I congratulate you, my lord,' said that gentleman; 'I congratulate you, since there needs no other proof than seeing your lordship here, to assure me that your innocence is fully cleared.'

'Aye, aye,' cried Sir Thomas Welby; 'all this bustle has happened through my foolish mistake: and I am glad that, besides my fair charge and her mother, here are so many witnesses of my acknowledging it.'

'Sir Thomas,' replied Lord Huntley, 'you have so well atoned for representing me more unworthy than I really am, or can be, by the promise you have given me of using your interest to make me more happy than I can ever deserve to be, that I have reason to bless an error so propitious to my hopes.'

'The event, I perceive, has proved fortunate enough,' said Lady Speck; 'but, methinks, I should be glad to know how it came about to be so, and by what means Sir Thomas was so strangely deceived.'

'Strangely indeed, Madam!' answered he; 'I am ashamed to think of it: but have a little patience, and you shall be fully acquainted with all the particulars of this very foolish affair; it is a penance I have enjoined myself, for my weakness in so rashly giving credit to appearances.'

The company now seated themselves, which before they had not done; and Sir Thomas, on seeing the three young ladies and Mr. Lovegrove prepared to give their attention to what he had to deliver, began the recital he had promised, in these or the like words.

P 2      'Happening

‘ Happening to call,’ said he, ‘ at the house of an honest tradesman with whom I have been long acquainted, I was a little surprized, on passing through his shop, to hear a person who came in just after me, enquire if Lord Huntley or his lady were at home.’

‘ I staid not to hear what answer was given to the man, but went directly to my friend, whom I saw sitting in his counting-house: the first question I asked him was, what lodgers he had in the house? To which he replied, that at present he had the honour of having Lord and Lady Huntley, of the kingdom of Ireland; but should not long be so happy, for they had taken a great house in the New Buildings, and only waited till their furniture, which was on the road from West-Chester, should arrive.

‘ The consternation I was in made me put a great many interrogations to him, some of which I believe were impertinent enough; but he had the good manners, however, to answer succinctly to every thing I asked, according to the best of his knowledge. He told me, that Lord Huntley had been in England some time before his lady; that he had staid but two nights with her in these lodgings before he went out of town, and would not return till his house should be quite compleated, and fit for his reception, leaving the care of every thing to her ladyship and the steward.

‘ He also added, that hearing they intended to furnish one apartment entirely new, he had recommended an upholsterer and cabinet-maker to them for that purpose, and hoped he should have an opportunity of obliging several others of his friends and neighbours, by helping them to the custom of this noble lord.

‘ As he is of a very communicative disposition, he ran on, of his own accord, with several other particulars; to which, indeed, I did not give much attention, thinking myself thoroughly convinced in the main point, that of Lord Huntley’s being a married man.

‘ But notwithstanding all he said served to corroborate that belief in me, I was willing to be still more confirmed; which I thought I might

‘ be, by seeing and speaking to the lady herself.

‘ Accordingly I told my friend, that I was well acquainted with Lord Huntley, though I had not till now heard of his marriage; but that, since it was so, and the thing seemed to be no secret, I should be glad to pay my compliments to her ladyship on that occasion.

‘ To this he replied, that she was the best-humoured woman in the world, and he was sure would take it very kindly. “Yonder is the steward,” cried he; “I will let him know your intentions.” In speaking these words, and without waiting to hear what I would say, he beckoned to a person who was that moment coming into the house: presently the worst countenanced man I ever saw, on my signifying to him my desire of waiting on Lady Huntley, answered with a great deal of civility, that he would see if her ladyship was at leisure to receive the honour of my visit.

‘ I forgot to send up my name, which blunder occasioned him to come down again to ask it. I made no scruple to inform him who I was, with this addition, of being one of Lord Huntley’s friends: he went up again, but staid much longer above the second time than he had done the first; at last, however, he returned with leave for my admission.

‘ I followed my conductor, who introduced me to the presence of a very lovely woman indeed, though she had somewhat of a downcast look in her eyes; which, as well as a good deal of hesitation in her voice in receiving me, I at that time imputed to her modesty, on finding herself accosted by a stranger; but have since found more proper causes to ascribe it to, those of guilt and fear.

‘ When the first compliments were passed, I took the liberty of asking her to what part of the country my lord had retired. She seemed in more confusion than before at this question, which then gave me some surprize; but on reflecting afterwards upon it, I easily found it had proceeded from her want of being prepared with an answer. I was, however, so inconsiderate as to furnish

‘ her



her with one, by mentioning Bath; on which she presently cried out—  
 “Yes, Sir; my lord is gone to Bath with some persons of quality, his relations.”

“Having satisfied my curiosity with the sight of this fine lady, I took a pretty hasty leave of her, and went directly to Lady Wingman, to whom I was impatient to communicate the discovery which, I thought, had been so providentially thrown in my way.

“Her ladyship, as may easily be supposed, was both amazed and troubled; but the result of our conversation was to write immediately to Miss Wingman, and apprise her of the danger we imagined she was in from the addresses of a married man. My lady would needs send Lady with these dispatches, in order to enforce the contents, and to conduct her daughter up to London.

“I need not tell you the satisfaction Miss Wingman’s letter gave us. Her ladyship was now perfectly easy; and I gave myself no farther pains to enquire after Lord and Lady Huntley. Happening, however, to meet my friend one day by accident, he told me that his lordship was expected in town every hour, and that all was ready for their going into their house; so that he should soon lose his lodgers.

“Things were in this position, when I was told one morning, soon after I was out of bed, that Lord Huntley, and a gentleman he had brought with him, were below, and desired to speak with me. I think I was not more astonished on hearing he was married, than I was at his making me a visit. I ran down, notwithstanding, to receive him; but more hastened by the perplexity I was in than by any respect I had for him at that time.

“Indeed, my lord,” continued Sir Thomas, addressing himself to Lord Huntley, “I can never too much admire your lordship’s moderation in behaving towards me as you did, after knowing what I had wrote concerning you to Miss Wingman.”  
 “Oh, Sir Thomas!” replied that nobleman, “I reserved all my fire for those who I supposed had traduced me to you, and created me an enemy out of my best friend.”

Sir Thomas was about to make some return to what Lord Huntley had said;

but the ladies cried out, that they were impatient for the catastrophe of this adventure, and desired he would give a truce to compliments, and pursue the thread of his discourse: on which he told them they should be obeyed; and went on thus.

“What I have farther to relate,” said he, “will be contained in a very short compass. My lord and I soon came to an *eclaircissement*: his lordship repeated to me the heads of my letter to Miss Wingman; and I gave him a faithful account of the reasons on which my accusation was founded. He requested me to use my endeavours to shew him the villain that had usurped his name. I readily complied; and attended his lordship and his friend, who, I afterwards found, was Sir Robert Manley, to the house where the supposed Lord Huntley and his lady lodged.

“My honest friend was luckily at home; but, on my desiring to speak with Lord or Lady Huntley, he told me they had left him two days before, and were gone to their new house: on which I asked him if he knew Lord Huntley when he saw him? “Yes, certainly!” replied he, somewhat surprized at the question. “Am I the person,” cried Lord Huntley, stepping forward, “that lodged with you, and bore the name of Lord Huntley?”—“No, Sir,” answered he; “nor has he any thing of your resemblance.”—“Then,” said I, “you have been imposed upon; it is well if not cheated too: for, I assure you, this is the real Lord Huntley; and him you have had with you must be an impostor.”

“Never were horror and amazement more strongly painted than in the face of this poor tradesman. “Then I am undone!” cried he. “I do not mean for what I shall lose myself, though it is no trifle; but I have drawn in several of my friends to give them credit.” He then proceeded to inform us that they had taken up plate, jewels, household furniture, and wearing apparel, to a considerable amount; and all through his recommendation. We pitied his distress, comforted him the best we could, and told him that, as the affair was so recent, it was to be hoped their things might be recovered.

“Lord

‘ Lord Huntley’s honour was now fully cleared; but he could not be content without condign punishment being inflicted on the villain who had assumed his name and character for purposes so infamous and base. The defrauded tradesmen were all sent for on this occasion; and, as it could not be imagined that the pretended Lord Huntley would either stay long in this town, or venture to appear to any stranger while in it, the best expedient that offered was to get a search-warrant to force open the doors of his new habitation; by which means he would not only be apprehended, but also such part of the goods he had taken up, which were not yet embzzled, might be restored to the proper owners.’

‘ A warrant was easily obtained on the oath of the several tradesmen, who all went with Lord Huntley, Sir Robert Manley, and myself, to see it put in execution by the officers of justice; but, to our great disappointment, the impostor was flown, with the whole gang belonging to him, both male and female. Upon enquiry among the neighbours, we found they had been there but one night; which time, it may be supposed, they had spent in packing up and carrying off goods they had brought in. The house, indeed, is conveniently situated for such a purpose, there being a back-door through the stables into another street.’

Here Sir Thomas Welby ended his little narrative: what was said upon it will be part of the subject of the succeeding chapter.

#### C H A P. XVI.

##### TREATS OF MORE THINGS THAN ONE.

AFTER thanking Sir Thomas Welby for the trouble he had given himself in satisfying their curiosity, and congratulating Lord Huntley on the ease he had found in removing the aspersion cast upon him, this amiable company began to enquire what methods had been taken to find out where the impostor and his associates had concealed themselves, in order that they might be brought to justice.

Lord Huntley replied, that nothing had been left undone for that purpose; that not only all the suspected places in London had been searched, but also letters sent to all those ports in the kingdom which opened either towards France, Holland, or Ireland, with a description of their persons, and affidavits of the frauds they had been guilty of; but that all this had been of no effect: so that those wretches, if they took any of those routes, must have escaped before the intelligence arrived.

‘ I cannot but confess,’ said Mr. Lovegrove, ‘ that the impostor shewed a good deal of address in the management of this affair; for, as he had assumed the character of a nobleman whose person, he must needs believe, was well known, he took care not to be seen by any one but the master of the house where the scene of his villainy was to be transacted, and even by him but just enough to give him room to say he had such a one for his lodger.’

‘ It certainly requires abundance both of courage and policy to form a com-pleat villain,’ said Lady Wingman; ‘ and I have often wondered that men, endued with such great talents, should not rather employ them for ends more laudable, as well as more safe, for themselves.’

‘ All good qualities, Madam,’ replied Mr. Lovegrove, ‘ lose their very nature when accompanied with a vicious disposition. Some men are born with such an unhappy propensity, such an innate love of wickedness, that they will do nothing at all unless they can do mischief: it is in that alone they are capable of exerting the talents they are possessed of. Nothing is more frequent than for a lawyer, who might make a very good figure in a just cause, to chuse to engage himself only in those which require chicanery and artifice; nor for a soldier drummed out of his regiment for cowardice, to become a most bold and hardened villain in robbing on the highway.’

‘ Yet there is a way to correct this propensity you talk of,’ cried Lady Speck; ‘ otherwise vice would rather be a misfortune than a fault, and consequently deserve less blame than pity.’

‘ Doubtless, Madam,’ answered Mr. Lovegrove;

Lovegrove; 'but it must be done in the most early years of life, and requires more pains than either tutor or pupil are sometimes inclined to take.'

This gentleman would, perhaps, have gone on with some discourse concerning the mistakes of education, and the little care that is too generally taken in giving a right bent to the minds of youth, which might have been of very great service to many of my readers, if it had not been prevented by the sudden entrance of Sir Robert Manley; on which the conversation immediately turned on other subjects.

The trusty Landy, according to his promise, having reached London pretty early that morning, Lady Wingman took it into her head to surprize her daughters with the sight of Lord Huntley in a place where they could so little expect to find him; and willing also that their common friends should be witnesses of this meeting, made an invitation, at the same time, to Sir Thomas Welby and Sir Robert Manley; but the latter of these gentlemen not being at home when the message was delivered, heard not of it till some hours afterwards, which was the cause that he came not with the others.

Welcomes, congratulations, and all the compliments befitting the present occasion, were now renewed; after which—'What I have lost,' said Sir Robert Manley, 'by not being here before, will, I hope, be made up by the company by the intelligence I bring.—You know, my lord,' continued he, turning to Lord Huntley, 'that we met Celandine in the Park yesterday?'

'Yes,' replied that nobleman, laughing; 'he was all alert and gay, talking to some ladies, when we met him: but I shall never forget how his countenance changed on perceiving us, and how silly and sheepish he looked as we passed by him!'

'The secret of his doing so,' resumed Sir Robert, 'is easy to guess. The sight of us two, doubtless, made him imagine that the terrible Mr. Lovegrove was also in town; for I have just now heard that he has packed up all his fardles of fopperies, and is gone this very morning to make a second tour, and display them to the best advan-

tage he can among his brethren, the petit-maitres.'

'What! gone to Paris?' cried Mr. Lovegrove. 'Aye, verily!' replied the other: 'his diamond tassel now ceases to sparkle in St. James's sun, and his musk and amber to perfume the Mall. Your dreadful idea has driven hence the hero of the mode—'

"To the great grief of many a charming toast,  
Who sighs and mourns her dear Pulvillio  
"lost!"

'Fye upon you, Sir Robert!' said Miss Wingman, giving him a slap over the shoulder with her fan; 'I cannot have so mean an opinion of my sex as to believe that there is even one woman in the world that will regret the absence of such a coxcomb.'

'Yes, sister,' rejoined Lady Speck, 'just as one would regret the loss of a squirrel or a monkey, who has diverted one with its tricks; for, I dare answer, no woman ever considered him in any other light.'

'Perhaps not, Madam,' said Lord Huntley; 'but as the animals you mention are sometimes very mischievous, so there may be danger in encouraging the follies of Celandine, which every one is not aware of. There is a certain young lady in this town, by some cried up for one of the greatest beauties in it, who has received a wound in her reputation, which will not easily be healed, on account of her acquaintance with him.'

'I know who your lordship means,' cried Jenny, who was always ready to take part with the absent; 'but dare believe that, whoever censures her for having the least tendre for that unworthy trifler, does her a great deal of injustice. It is true, he has had the impudence and vanity to follow her to all public places, and even to take some liberty in company, which her excess of good-nature kept her from resenting so much as, perhaps, she ought to have done: yet, in spite of these appearances, I think I may be pretty positive that she heartily hates and despises him.'

Mr. Lovegrove, who, in all probability, had more concern in this discourse than any one of the company, except

except Lady Speck, joined not in it; but affected to be wholly unattentive during the time it lasted, and seemed taken up with admiring a fine gold-headed cane Sir Thomas Welby had in his hand.

The good baronet, who had all this while been silent, as knowing nothing either of Celandine or the lady mentioned by Lord Huntley, could not now, on hearing what Jenny said, forbear testifying his admiration of her generosity in expressions no less polite than they were sincere.

'It is no new thing, Sir Thomas,' said Mr. Lovegrove, 'to hear Miss Jessamy plead the cause of the accused: strong as was the indictment laid against Lord Huntley in your letter, I can assure you it lost half its force by the arguments which this fair advocate urged in opposition to it; scarce could the supposed criminal himself have defended his innocence with more zeal, or in terms more pathetic and efficacious.'

It cannot be doubted but that Lord Huntley made the most grateful acknowledgments to that young lady, on being told the part she had taken in his justification. 'But how, Madam,' said he to her, 'did my charming judge receive the pleas you were so good to offer in my behalf?'

'Oh, my lord,' answered she with a smile, 'this is not a fair question; a barrister, you know, never pretends to dive into the sentiments of the court.' He then was about to address something to Miss Wingman, who seemed in a good deal of confusion at this discourse; but her blushes were instantly relieved by the butler coming in to tell Lady Wingman that supper was on the table; on which they all adjourned into the next room, and sat down to partake of a very elegant collation, which that lady had prepared for their entertainment.

What passed during the time of eating would be superfluous to repeat; so I shall only say, that soon after the cloth was taken away, Lady Speck, knowing her mother went early to bed, made a motion to retire, and by doing so, engaged the company to break up, to the no small satisfaction of Jenny, who was impatient to get home, for reasons which will presently appear.

## C H A P. XVII.

AFFORDS FRESH MATTER TO EMPLOY THE SPECULATION OF EVERY CURIOUS READER.

**B**Y Jemmy's letter from Ham-Hall, Jenny found that the time which he proposed to continue there was elapsed; and therefore doubting not but that he was now in town, sent her servant the minute she came home, to acquaint him with her arrival; but she was a good deal surprized when the return of the messenger informed her, that after staying but two nights in London, he had set out the very day before for Bath.

The gall of this disappointment had an equal portion of sweetness mingled with it: if she was vexed at not being able to see him so soon as she had expected, she was no less pleased on the haste he had made to go to Bath, as she knew he could have no reason to imagine she as yet had left that place.

This being a new proof of the sincerity of his affection towards her, very much abated her impatience to reproach him with the less honourable addresses he had made elsewhere; and the sometimes even doubted within herself, whether she ought ever to give him any shock upon that score.

When the suspicion of an enormous injury is once removed, all lesser ones decrease in magnitude, and seem less deserving our resentment than they really are. Jenny believing her lover innocent, as to the main point, began now to think little of any thing else he might be guilty of.

The good-humour she was in at present with him rendered her mind quite composed: but the time was not arrived when she was to remain in any settled state of tranquillity; a letter was brought to her by a person who refused to say either from whom or from whence he came. It contained these lines:

## ' TO MISS JESSAMY.

'MADAM,  
'THE high character I have heard  
'of your good-nature and com-  
'plaisance makes me not doubt but you  
'are endowed with an equal share of  
'justice



‘ justice and generosity, especially when these noble virtues are to be exerted in favour of a person of your own sex; and in that confidence take the liberty of entreating you will set me right in an affair on which the whole happiness of my life depends, and which none but yourself can clear up from it’s present ambiguity.

‘ I have for a considerable time received the most passionate addresses of a gentleman whom, I very well know, the world once looked upon as destined to be yours: he has gained my friends consent, and, by his merits and assiduities, so great an ascendant over me, that nothing hitherto has hindered me from accepting his hand, but the fears that in doing so I should be accessory to his being guilty of an irreparable injury to you.

‘ After all this, it may perhaps be needless to tell you, that I mean Mr. Jessamy; but as my circumstances require a plain and categorical answer from you on this head, it behoves me to express myself in terms which will admit no room to doubt their meaning: it is, indeed, Madam, no other than he whom I love, and by whom I am equally beloved; and who, while he confesses a former engagement with you, protests at the same time, and with the same seeming sincerity at least, that it is now entirely broken off, and that he is at full liberty to dispose of his person where he has given his heart.

‘ But I have been told, by people more experienced than myself, that men will say and swear any thing to gain their point; I dare, therefore, depend on nothing but an assurance from yourself of the reality of his professions. Tell me, I beseech you, how far the intended union between you is dissolved, and whether I may be his without a crime? Pity a rival, who would rather die than invade your property, if once convinced he is so; ease a suspense which has something in it more distracting, more cruel, than all that could be inflicted by the last despair on her who is, with the greatest respect, Madam, your most obedient, though unknown servant.

‘ P. S. I beg an immediate answer, because I have promised to give mine to Mr. Jessamy on his re-

‘ turn from Bath; and should be glad to know, before he comes, in what manner I ought to square my conduct towards him.’

On the first reading this letter, new alarms, new doubts, new jealousies, instantly filled the head and heart of Jenny; but, on the second perusal, there seemed to her something too romantick in the expression, as well as purport of it, for her to believe it founded upon real fact; and she began to fancy it was either intended by her enemies as an insult, or her friends as a jest: resolving, therefore, that from which quarter soever it came, neither of them should have any room to laugh at her behaviour on the occasion, she took a small piece of paper, and wrote in the following words.

‘ IF I were really possessed of all the good qualities ascribed to me in the letter before me, I know none of them that would oblige me to send any answer to an anonymous epistle: when the lady who wrote it thinks proper to reveal herself, she may depend on the satisfaction she desires; in the mean time she is at liberty to form what conjecture she pleases, and to be directed by them which appear to her to have the greatest probability of being right.’

This, without either seal or direction, and only folded in a careless manner, she gave to the messenger who had brought the letter, and bid him carry it to those who sent him.

She set herself down again in order to re-examine the contents of this extraordinary epistle; but the more she did so, the less able was she to conceive the real intention of it, or from what hand it came.

After forming, and as often rejecting, a thousand different conjectures, it at last came into her head, that the woman to whom Jemmy had wrote that letter which she received at Bath by mistake, had contrived this stratagem to create a dissention between them.

‘ I have heard,’ said she to herself, ‘ that women of the vile profession I suppose her of, value themselves upon these kind of artifices, and take a pride in the mischiefs they sometimes occasion: but certainly,’ continued she,

she, 'those on whom such little tricks have any effect must have a very small share of understanding. Jemmy, however,' added she, after a pause, 'will see by this the scandal and danger of entering into any sort of intimacy with such abandoned creatures.'

But though it must be acknowledged that there was the appearance of a good deal of reason to confirm her in this last opinion, yet I believe the sagacious reader, by what has been the business of several chapters in the first volume of this work, will easily guess that the letter in question was only an addition to the former attempts made by the invidious Bellpine to dissolve that cement of affection which had so long united the hearts of our two lovers.

It was, indeed, no other than that base man, who knowing she was in town, by having accidentally met her footman in the morning, had taken this method of corroborating the many others which he before had put in practice.

He waited at a coffee-house in the neighbourhood, to see what return Jenny would make by his emissary; which finding not so satisfactory as he wished, he went directly to visit her, hoping that by her countenance and behaviour, immediately after the receipt of this letter, he would be able to discover, more than by her answer to it, what effect it had wrought upon her.

It has been already observed, that Jemmy had inspired her with the best opinion of this treacherous friend; so she no sooner heard he was below, than she ordered he should be introduced, and received him with that sweetness and affability with which she always treated those whom she thought deserving of it.

What company were at Bath; who made the most brilliant appearance there; who won, and who lost at play; with other such like matters, employed the first moments of their conversation: but Bellpine, desirous of turning it on something more applicable to his purpose, gave over speaking on these subjects as soon as he could do so without abruptness.

'Mr. Jessamy must certainly be very unhappy, Madam,' said he, 'on finding you had quitted Bath before his arrival there.'—'He deserves little pity

on that score,' replied Jenny: 'you men can always find ways to divert yourselves; few of you regret the absence of an old friend, when you have so many opportunities of engaging new ones.'

Though she spoke these words with a very gay air, yet there was a certain keenness in her looks at the same time, which persuaded this watchful observer that his plot had not entirely failed of the success he aimed at.

'I do not pretend, Madam,' resumed he, 'to dive into the sentiments of Mr. Jessamy; but I am very sure, that if you were free, and at liberty to be adored, there are men in the world who would think no joy equal to that of gazing on you, and of repeating every day, every hour, nay, every minute, the influence of your charms.'

'It is possible, indeed,' answered she, 'that there may be some who would endeavour to make me believe so, and that might be even vain enough to imagine I was pleased with what they said: it is, therefore, very fortunate for me, that I was disposed of by my parents before I arrived at an age to be teased with such impertinence.'

'It is strange how you have escaped them. However, Madam,' said he, 'your marriage with Mr. Jessamy being so long delayed, might reasonably tempt those who wish it so, to flatter themselves with a belief that it never will be accomplished, and that there was somewhat of a disinclination either on the one side or the other.'

These words made her not doubt but that the report she had heard so much of concerning Jemmy's inconstancy had also reached his ears; and she would certainly have been infligated, if not by female curiosity, by love or jealousy, to enter into some discourse with him on that head, if the intimacy between them had not restrained her, as she thought he would not betray to her the secret of his friend, in case he were entrusted with it.

What he said, however, bringing fresh to her memory the vexation she had lately undergone on this account, her countenance went through several changes in the space of half a minute. 'Whoever should think in the manner you mention,' replied she, 'would discover a great want of judgment: a conjecture

'conjecture of this nature could be justified only by the behaviour of one or other of us; and I believe it has been such on both sides as to give no room for suspicion that either of us regretted the agreement made between our parents.'

A lady to whom Jenny had sent a card that morning, to give notice of her being in town, that same instant coming in, prevented Bellpine from making any answer; and he took his leave soon after, having discovered by this visit that his artifices had given her some uneasiness, but less resentment than was necessary for the success of his design.

#### CHAP. XVIII.

IS DULL ENOUGH TO PLEASE THOSE WHO TAKE AN ILL-NATURED DELIGHT IN FINDING SOMETHING TO CONDEMN; YET IS NOT WITHOUT OCCURRENCES WHICH WILL KEEP AWAKE THE ATTENTION OF SUCH WHO READ WITH A DESIRE OF BEING AGREEABLY AMUSED.

**T**HE lady who came to visit Jenny was extremely good-humoured, but a little too talkative; she never exceeded the bounds of truth in any thing she said, but gave herself not the trouble of considering how far the truths she uttered were proper to be revealed.

I have observed, that people of this temper frequently do as much mischief, without designing it, as those of the most malicious intentions are capable of: and though sincerity be among the number of the most valuable virtues, yet there are many circumstances wherein to speak all one knows may produce as bad consequences as to speak more than one knows.

I never happened to fall into the company of either man or woman of this stamp, but I have fresh in memory some lines I formerly read in Browne's works—

'Those babbling echoes of what'er they hear,  
'Fame's menial servants, who her tidings bear,  
'Sow such dissention, kindle such debate,  
'As turns all sweet to sour, all love to hate.'

But to return to my subject. Bellpine had no sooner left the two ladies together, than Jenny's friend began to ex-

press some wonder at seeing her in town so much before the time she was expected: 'What,' cried she, 'is there any disagreement between you and Mr. Jessamy?'

'No, not any,' replied Jenny, a little startled at the question: 'but wherefore do you ask?'—'Nay,' resumed the other, 'it was only a foolish imagination of my own: not but I had some reason for it, too. You must know, that I thought you had been told something of him that had made you angry; and so, when you heard he was coming down to Bath, you immediately flounced up to London.'

'All a mistake, upon my word!' said Jenny: 'the ladies I was with had some business in town; and my unwillingness to be left behind was the sole cause of my returning to London so soon. But, pray, what put such a thing into your head?'

'I did not think to tell you,' answered this fair gossip; 'but since you press me—though I am afraid it will vex you—yet I think, too, you ought to know it; and if you will promise me not to fret, I will let you into the whole secret.'

Jenny then said, that she should listen without pain to any thing she had to relate, and gave her many more assurances of her philosophy in this point than she had occasion to do; as the other was no less impatient to disburden herself of the secret than she was to be made a sharer in it.

'Well, men will be men,' said the lady; 'there is no such thing as changing nature: but, sure, I made the discovery I am going to tell you, by the oddest accident that ever was; I suppose you know Mrs. Comode, the habbit-maker?'—'No,' replied Jenny; 'but I have heard of her.'

'I buy all my things of her,' resumed the other; 'she has vast business, and I think the genteelst fancy of any woman of her profession about town; every thing she makes up fits with such an air! You must know, I had bespoke a fly-petticoat with fringes of her: it not being sent home according to the time she promised, I called in one morning as I passed that way to see if it was done; she made a thousand apologies, and said I should have it that day; but I scolded heartily, and insisted upon seeing how near it

‘ was finished; on which she ran up to fetch it, leaving me alone in the shop.

‘ The moment she was gone,’ continued this tale-monger, ‘ I found my garter was split; I durst not venture to tie it up in that place, for fear somebody should come in; and was running into a little room behind the shop; but, Lord! I shall never forget how I was surprised; I had no sooner pushed open the door of that place, who do you think I saw there?’

‘ I cannot guess, indeed, my dear; but expect you will inform me,’ replied Jenny. ‘ Why, no other,’ said she, ‘ than the very individual Mr. Jessamy!—Do not be uneasy now—sitting as close to a fine lady as two kernels in a nut-shell, hand in hand, and one of his arms across her shoulder: they were so earnest in discourse, that they either did not hear the door open, or thought it was Mrs. Comode herself; but both seemed in great confusion, and started from their seats when I came in. Whether Mr. Jessamy saw enough of me to distinguish who I was, I know not; for I only cried—“ I ask pardon,” and went out of the room with as much haste as I had entered.

‘ Mrs. Comode came down presently after, and brought the petticoat; but I was in such a consternation at what I had seen, that I could scarce look upon it. I told her of what had happened, but did not say I knew either of the parties. She appeared very much shocked, but made an awkward excuse; said they were two of her customers that had been walking that morning, and came in to beg a pot of tea; on which I took no farther notice; but have had no good opinion of her ever since.

‘ Some woman of the town, I suppose,’ said Jenny: ‘ pray, what sort of creature was it he had with him?’—‘ Nay,’ answered the other, ‘ you cannot think it possible for me to give any particular description of her by the momentary glimpse I had of her; but I cannot say that altogether she looked like such a person.’

Jenny had boasted of so much fortitude, that she was a little vexed she had betrayed any want of it by the question she had asked; but she afterwards atoned for it by affecting the most perfect indifference during the rest of the

conversation they had together on this subject, which lasted almost the whole time the lady staid.

Nothing is more painful than, when the mind is discomposed, to be under a necessity of concealing it: Jenny had been impatient to be alone long before she was so, and found a good deal of ease when she attained an opportunity of reflecting at leisure on what she had heard.

The story told her by this lady had not so much affected her, as the hint given her by Bellpine, concerning a supposition that the match between her and Jemmy was on the point of being broke off. This tallying so exactly with the intelligence sent to Lady Speck at Bath, convinced her that such a thing was really talked of in town, and could not but very much alarm both her love and pride.

Yet when she remembered her lover’s tender letter from Ham-Hall, and the many others she had received from him while she was at Bath; besides the haste she found he had made in hurrying down to that place, in expectation of meeting her there; she could not tell how to think it possible, that, if guilty as represented, he could be capable of such deceit.

‘ There is no answering for the hearts of men,’ said she: ‘ love is an involuntary passion; chance or fatality directs the choice, and sometimes a single moment undoes the work of years. I should not be surprised that Jemmy happened to see a face which had more charms for him than mine: but wherefore, then, should he carry on the deception with me? How would it avail his new flame to pretend to prosecute a former one? No,’ continued she, after pausing a little; ‘ for him to act in this manner would be as inconsistent with reason and common sense, as with honour and justice; and it would also be the utmost weakness in me to believe it.’

Thus did she make herself tolerably easy as to the main part of what was laid to his charge; but as to his having entered into an affair of gallantry, she had too plain a proof of that under his own hand-writing, to admit the least room for doubt, and needed not the confirmation she had just received of it from her friend.

Upon the whole, however, few young ladies in her circumstances would have suffered less inquietude: and this must be



be said of her, that it was much more difficult to raise any tempest in her mind, than it was to calm that tempest after it had been raised.

Neither grief nor anger had the power to affect her long, or to drive her to any excesses while they lasted: a humour extremely volatile, a great deal of good-nature, and an equal share of understanding, were happily united in her composition, and made her always ready to believe the best, and to forgive the worst.

The small remains of resentment and discontent, on the various occasions that had been given her for both, were entirely dissipated, when, on the evening of the succeeding day, she received a letter from Jemmy, the contents whereof were as follow.

‘ TO MISS JESSAMY.

‘ MY MORE THAN EVER DEAR JENNY!

‘ I Have certainly been of late one of the most unlucky fellows in the universe; first, to be detained, by a series of cross accidents, from following you in a few days, as I proposed; then, when I had dispatched those vexatious affairs, and just upon the wing to fly to Bath, to be dragged to another quarter of the kingdom, by one whose entreaties you know I could not well deny; and, lastly, when, got free from every care but my impatience to be with you, I arrived here full-fraught with the expectation of meeting all my soul holds dear, to find you had left the place scarce twenty-four hours before I came; judge how sincerely I am mortified! I suppose the caprice of those you were with carried you so suddenly from hence: but I hope that day is now near at hand when those who take you will be obliged to take me also; for indeed, my dear Jenny, I am quite weary of this life. Whenever I am from you for any length of time, I feel, methinks, as if separated from myself: the more I see of other women, the more I regret the absence of my dear Jenny. As I came hither pretty early last night, I went to the Long-room: there were a great many fine ladies there; but all their beauties are without a charm for me; I can be gay, but not happy, in their company; the power of giving true felicity to Jemmy is reserved only for his dear, dear Jenny.

‘ I give you warning, therefore, not to think of delaying any longer a blessing I have been made to hope for ever since my first putting on breeches reminded me that, if I lived, I should be one day a man; but be assured I should have little joy in being so, if it were not for the expectation of being yours by a more tender title than that with which I now subscribe myself, unalterably and inviolably, my dear, dear Jenny’s most passionately devoted, most faithful lover, and ever humble and obedient servant,

‘ J. JESSAMY.

‘ P. S. I would have set out to-morrow morning on my return for London, but my servant got an ugly fall from his horse in coming hither, and is very much bruised; so I am willing to give him one day to recover himself; but hope, the next, to be so far on my journey towards you, as that there will be but a few hours distance between your receiving this and the author of it; till when I am, my dear, dear Jenny,

‘ Your’s, as above.’

Jenny was now in such great good-humour with her lover, that she grew half resolved to consent to his desires for the consummation of their marriage, if it were only to put a final end to those idle reports which had been spread concerning his having an intention to break it off.

But before we bring them together again, it is highly necessary that the reader should be made fully acquainted with the manner in which Jemmy had passed his time during this little separation, and also to clear up those parts of his conduct which have hitherto appeared mysterious.

#### C H A P. XIX.

RETURNS TO WHAT HAS, DOUBTLESS, BEEN LONG AGO EXPECTED; AND OPENS A NEW SCENE OF VARIOUS AND ENTERTAINING OCCURRENCES.

I Am very much afraid that poor Jemmy has lain for a great while under the displeasure of my fair readers, and that few among them will be quite so ready

ready as Jenny has been to take his bare word for a sufficient proof of his honour, and the sincerity of his passion.

It is high time, therefore, to let his actions speak for themselves; and if they cannot shew him so wholly blameless as could be wished, from the frailties of youth and nature, they will at least defend his character from the more gross imputations of perfidiousness, ingratitude, and deceit.

As I have no view to self-interest in this work; no time-server, no patron to please; it may be depended on that I shall present my hero such as he truly is; and not, like some political historians of a modern date, attempt to mislead the judgment by any false glosses or misrepresentations of facts.

The writers I have been speaking of will not allow the person on whom Fortune has not vouchsafed to smile, any one virtue or good quality; he must be all black, without a single speck of white, even to excite the compassion of the world: what false steps he may have been guilty of are ascribed to his own innate propensity to evil, not to any inadvertency, nor to the wicked insinuations of those on whom he may unhappily have depended, and who, perhaps, have found their interest in pushing him on to things purposely to betray and ruin him.

Whereas, on the other hand, the man whom a concurrence of fortuitous events, or perhaps some indirect measures of his own or partisans contrivance, have raised to prosperity, shall be mounted on the pinnacle of fame; his virtues, if he has any, be resounded even to the remotest borders of the earth; and all his vices, though numerous as the hairs upon his head, and glaring with red impiety, be so screened and shadowed over with the incense of panegyrick, as not to be discerned but by a few eagle-eyed observers; but I shall say no more; these authors, perhaps, earn their sustenance by the labour of the pen; these are not times for Truth to go clad in velvet; and there is no serving God and Mammon.

I cannot, however, without great injustice, close this reflection till I have taken notice that there is one who bravely, and almost alone, has courage to enter the lists of battle against an host of adversaries; and attempts to rescue injured innocence from the claws of cruel

and all-devouring Scandal: may his honest endeavours meet the success they merit; and, in spite of prejudice and partiality, open the eyes of too long hood-wink'd Reason!

And now for our *Jemmy Jessamy*. Nothing is more certain than that he had determined to follow his dear *Jenny* to Bath, according to his promise, as soon as the affairs which brought his steward to town should be dispatched; nor was he less uneasy than one of his letters, inserted in a former chapter, had intimated to her, on finding himself likely to be detained in London so much longer than he had expected at the time of her departure.

Business of any kind, especially of that sort in which he was now engaged, was no way agreeable to his humour: to be obliged to sit for hours together reading over leases, bonds, and ejectments, instead of poetry and books of diversion; to converse every day with men of pleasure; was extremely distasteful to him: but, in the midst of all this, he met with something, which, though he did not think of any great moment, served, however, to add to the perplexity of his mind, and involve him in an embarrassment he had never dreamt of.

He was at breakfast one morning, when his servant informed him, that a gentleman who called himself *Morgan* desired to speak with him: this was a person for whom *Jemmy* had a very great esteem; not only on account of many good qualities he was possessed of, but likewise as he knew he had been always highly respected by his father.

He gave orders that he should be immediately introduced; and when he was so, began to testify, with as much sincerity as politeness, how much he thought himself indebted to him for the favour of this visit; but he was soon interrupted by the other, who, with an honest plainness, replied in these terms.

‘*Mr. Jessamy,*’ said he, ‘this is not a visit of mere ceremony; I come not hither at this time either to make or receive any compliments, but to do you a more essential service, and myself a more real pleasure. To be free with you,’ continued he, ‘I am very much troubled at some things I have heard in relation to you; and would gladly offer you such advice as my long experience of the world may enable me to give you,’

*Few*

Few young people like to have their conduct called in question: Jemmy presently imagined that the old gentleman had been informed of some little flights, some trifling irregularities, which company and the gaiety of his own temper might have led him into, and expected to be entertained with a grave lesson on that occasion; he told him, however, that he should willingly listen to any instructions he should give him.

'I believe,' resumed Mr. Morgan, 'that you are convinced I wish you well; but if you are not, I hope what I have to say will make you so. Mistake me not,' pursued he, seeing the other look very serious; 'I am not going to reprimand you; I know not as yet whether you deserve it: I have not seen Miss Jessamy since she was an infant; I have heard, indeed, a very good character both of her person and accomplishments; but you are the best judge of her merits, as well as of your own heart. I am confident, that when your parents agreed upon a marriage between you, they meant not it should render either of you miserable; so have nothing to say as to that: but, whatever be the motive of your breaking with her, I would not have you, methinks, transfer your addresses to any one where there is not a greater probability of being more happy.'

Jemmy was so confounded, so astonished, at hearing him speak in this manner, that he had not the power, for some moments, of uttering one syllable; and when he had, it was only to cry—'Breaking with her, Sir! What! breaking with Miss Jessamy?'

'You have, doubtless, your own reasons for so doing,' replied the good old gentleman: 'but let that pass; I would only have you be wary how you make a second choice. It is not in my nature to traduce the character of any one: Miss Chit may be a very deserving young woman, for any thing I have to accuse her of; but you know very well that her family is doubtful, her fortune precarious, and, if she should have any, it will be little for her husband's honour to receive. Besides, this is not the worst; for though she may be virtuous in fact, yet she keeps company with some persons of both sexes, which does not become a woman who has any regard for reputation: in short, my dear Mr. Jess-

samy, she is in no respect a fit wife for you.'

'A wife for me!' said Jemmy, not yet recovered from his amazement; 'for Heaven's sake, Sir, explain the meaning of all this! You talk of things which have so little analogy with my intentions, that they never once entered into my head or heart. To break my engagements with Miss Jessamy, or to make my addresses to Miss Chit, are both of them equally inconsistent with my inclinations as with my reason; and it is not possible for me to conceive how such chimeras could come into the thoughts of any one.'

'As to the first,' answered Mr. Morgan, 'I have heard it mentioned in several companies where I have been, as an event past all dispute; and as to what concerns Miss Chit, I was not only told it by a person who frequently visits her, but also had it confirmed yesterday at the coffee-house by her own father; who being asked if there was any truth in the report of an intended marriage between his daughter and Mr. Jessamy, replied with his usual stiffness and formality, That he believed a treaty of that nature was upon the carpet.'

Jemmy, on hearing this, was fully persuaded, that so idle a rumour could proceed from nothing but the vanity of that young lady; which so incensed him against her, that he could not forbear, in the first emotions of passion, speaking of her in terms which nothing but the occasion could excuse.

As he was discussing the matter with Mr. Morgan, and convincing that gentleman of the entire fallacy of all he had reproached him with, a card was brought from Miss Chit, in which was wrote these words.

'MISS Chit gives her compliments to Mr. Jessamy; and desires his company to a concert to be performed by private hands this evening at her house.'

'Now, Sir,' said he to Mr. Morgan, 'you shall see the little influence the charms of this vain girl have over me. I will send her a letter instead of a card; and such a one as shall put an effectual stop to all the foolish imaginations she may have conceived on my account.'

He

He then took pen and paper; and, without giving himself much trouble to consider what he was about, wrote to her in these terms.

‘ TO MISS CHIT.

‘ MADAM,

‘ **B**USINESS denies me the pleasure of accepting your invitation; but I lay hold of this opportunity of taking my leave of you, as I cannot do it in person.

‘ Love and honour summon me to Bath, where my dear Miss Jessamy is gone before. As it is impossible but you must have heard of my engagements with that lady, you will not wonder that I am in the utmost impatience to follow her.

‘ Whenever you venture on marriage, I wish you all the happiness which I hope very shortly to enjoy in that state with the admirable lady to whom I am going. I am, with thanks for all favours, Madam, your most obedient, humble servant,

‘ J. JESSAMY.’

This letter, after having shewed it to Mr. Morgan, and received his approbation, Jemmy sent directly away, and gave orders that it should be left for the lady without waiting for any answer.

On talking farther of this affair, they both concluded that the report must have taken rise originally from the vanity of the daughter, and the stupidity of the father; who, misconstruing the civilities Jemmy treated them with, as the effects of an amorous inclination, had boasted of the imaginary conquest to some of their acquaintance; those again had whispered it to others, till it went round, and became, as is common in such cases, the universal secret.

Thus had the artifices of Bellpine made Miss Chit and her father, who were in reality no more than the dupes of his design, appear as the principal contrivers of it. There is nothing, indeed, in which the judgment is so liable to be deceived, as in endeavouring to discover the first author of a calumny; those generally stand behind the curtain, content themselves with the invention, and leave the work of malice to be performed by others; as one of our poets says—

‘ ’Tis difficult, when rumour once is spread,  
‘ To trace it's windings to the fountain-head.’

The injustice which Jemmy and his friend were guilty of in this point, may, however, have some claim to absolution, as this belief was founded on the most strong probability of truth that could be.

These gentlemen parted not till the clock striking three, reminded them of dinner: Mr. Morgan, being engaged at home, would fain have taken Jemmy with him; but he was not at present in a humour for much company, therefore desired to be excused from complying with the invitation.

## CHAP. XX.

IS SHORT, BUT PITHY.

**A** Volatile temper is not always a sufficient security against discontent. Jemmy loved his dear Jenny even more than he knew he did himself; and to be assured from a mouth whose veracity he was too well convinced of to suspect, that it was said he had quitted her for the sake of Miss Chit, he looked upon as such an indignity to her merits, as gave him more pain than any censure the supposed change might bring upon himself.

He wrote to her that same night; but as he hoped the idle report which gave him so much vexation could not as yet, at least, have extended itself so far as Bath, he thought it improper to make any mention of it till he should see her in person, and have the better opportunity of proving the falshood of it: he complained, therefore, only of the business that kept him so long from her; and his heart now more than ever overflowing with love and tenderness, his expressions were conformable.

This was the letter which Jenny received immediately after the intelligence given her by Lady Speck and Miss Wingman of his supposed infidelity: the effects of it have been already shewn, and need not be repeated.

Bellpine, who had been at Miss Chit's concert, was a good deal surprised at not finding Jemmy there, as he knew he had been invited; but much more when that young lady, taking him aside, shewed him the answer that had been sent



sent to her card, and reproached him, in terms pretty severe, for having endeavoured to persuade her she was mistress of a heart which she now found was so firmly attached to another.

It is natural, when the mind is overcharged with thoughts of any kind, to disburden itself to those who we believe take an interest in our affairs: Jemmy had not a greater confidence in any one man of his acquaintance than Bellpine; it may be supposed, therefore, that he failed not to communicate to him the perplexity he was at present under, and the story which had occasioned it.

That faithless friend affected the utmost astonishment at the recital; and cried out, with a shew of the most affectionate zeal—'Good God! I hope Miss Jessamy has heard nothing of this.'

'I think it scarce possible,' replied Jemmy, 'that such a report can have reached her ears, at least as yet, in the place where she is; and as I hope to be with her in a few days, I shall take care to arm her against what she might be told hereafter, by relating it myself.'

This greatly disconcerted Bellpine: he had flattered himself that Jemmy's affairs would have detained him so long in London, that the stratagems laid to inspire her with a belief of his inconstancy would have taken too strong a hold of her heart to be totally removed. Fain would he have dissuaded him from going to Bath, but could find no reasons for that purpose plausible enough to prevent the real motive from being suspected. Chance, however, at present befriended his designs, and did that for him which all his invention, fertile as it was, could not furnish him with the means of accomplishing.

As Jemmy, in an indolent and uncontemplative mood, was one day loitering in Covent Garden Piazza, a fine gilt chariot, with two footmen behind it, stopped at one of the arches; and just as he was passing, an ancient gentleman and a very young lady alighted out of it, and went into the Great Auction-house, lately Mr. Cock's, but now occupied in the same manner by Mr. Langford.

He started, and was strangely surprised at sight of this lady; not on account of her beauty, though she was handsome beyond description, but be-

cause he thought himself perfectly well acquainted with her face; but where, or at what time he had been so, he could not presently recollect.

He stood for the space of several minutes endeavouring to recover a more distinct idea of that lovely person; but finding it impossible, he stepped to one of the footmen, who was leaning his back against a pillar, and asked him to whom that chariot belonged; and being answered—'To Sir Thomas Hardy,' 'Then,' resumed Jemmy, 'I suppose the young lady with him is his daughter?'—'No, Sir,' replied the fellow with a smile, which he was not able to restrain, 'I assure you she is his wife.'

Jemmy on this began to think he had been mistaken: resolving, however, to be convinced, he went into the auction-room, doubting not but a second and more full view would set him right.

There was a great deal of company; but he presently singled her out, and was now more assured than ever, that they were no strangers to each other; when, on fixing his eyes upon her, he perceived her countenance change at sight of him, that she grew pale and red by turns, and betrayed all the marks of the utmost confusion.

Yet all this was not sufficient to enable him to bring back to remembrance what curiosity made him so desirous of retrieving, till the lady, taking the opportunity of her husband's being engaged in looking over some pictures, advanced hastily towards him, and said in a low voice—'What, has Mr. Jessamy forgot his Celia of the Woods?'

'Heavens!' cried he, 'what a stupid dolt was I!'—'Hush,' replied she, 'take no notice of me here.' She had kept her eyes upon her husband all the time she was speaking to Jemmy, and observing that he now looked that way, rejoined him in an instant.

The old baronet kept very close to his fair wife all the rest of the time; yet had she the address to steal a moment just to bid Jemmy meet her at ten the next morning at the end of the Mall next Buckingham House.

He could only give her a bow of assent; and remained in a consternation, which only can be guessed at by the knowledge who Celia was, and the intercourse he formerly had with her.

## CHAP. XXI.

DISCOVERS CELIA OF THE WOODS  
ON HER FIRST ACQUAINTANCE  
WITH JEMMY, AND ALSO SOME  
OTHER PARTICULARS OF EQUAL  
IMPORTANCE.

**T**HOUGH Jemmy, when he was at Oxford, debarred himself from few of those gay amusements which he saw taken by his fellow collegians; yet he applied himself to his studies more closely than most gentlemen-commoners think they are under any obligation to do; and, because he would not be interrupted, would frequently steal from the university, and pass whole hours together in the fields, either reading or contemplating.

A pretty warm dispute happening to rise one day between two students, concerning the true reading of Persius, he was ambitious of becoming more master of the subject than either of them seemed to be; accordingly he put the book into his pocket, and repaired to the usual place of retirement.

The evening was fair and pleasant, and he was so much absorbed in meditation, that he wandered on to a greater distance from the town than he had been accustomed; till at last, finding himself a little weary, he sat down at the foot of a large spreading oak.

Here he prosecuted the examination of that crabbed author; but had not long done so before he was interrupted, and his eyes taken off by the sudden appearance of a sight more pleasing.

The tree, which served him at once for a support and screen, was just at the entrance of a little wood; a rustling among the leaves made him look that way, where he immediately saw a young country maid; she was neat, though plainly dressed; and had eyes which might vie with any that sparkled in the box or drawing-room.

At this view he was not master of himself; like Carlos at the sight of Angelina in the play, he threw away his book, started from the posture he was in, and advanced towards the sweet temptation: she saw him too, and fled, but not so fast as not to be easily overtaken.

The first rencounter between these

two young persons reminds me of a passage I have read in one of our best poets—

‘As Mahomet was musing in his cell,  
‘Some dull insipid paradise to trace,  
‘A brisk Arabian girl came tripping by:  
‘Passing, she shot at him a side-long glance,  
‘And look’d behind, as if to be pursu’d;  
‘He took the hint, embrac’d the flying fair;  
‘And, having found his heaven, he fix’d it  
‘there.’

It is not to be imagined that Jemmy accosted a maid of her degree with any set speeches or formal salutations: those charms which in a woman of condition would have inspired him with a respectful awe, served only to fill his heart with the most unwarrantable desires; he told her she was pretty, and at the same time attempted to convince her that he thought her so, by catching her forcibly in his arms, and giving her two or three hearty kisses.

She struggled, blushed, cried—‘Fye, Sir!’ and desired him to forbear; but our young commoner was not to be so easily rebuffed; the little repulses she gave him served only the more to inflame his amorous inclination; and he had perhaps compleated his conquest without any farther ceremony, if she had not fallen on her knees, and with tears besought him to desist.

Jemmy had too much honour and good nature not to be touched with a behaviour so moving, and which he had so little reason to expect from the weak efforts she at first made to repel his caresses.

‘Nay, my dear creature,’ said he, ‘I scorn to do any thing by force; but if all the love in the world can make you mine, I shall be happy: tell me, therefore,’ continued he, ‘who you are, and where you live, that I may see you another time.’

‘Oh lud, Sir!’ cried she, ‘that is impossible: what do you think my friends would say, if they should see such a gentleman as you come to visit me?’—‘I did not mean so,’ replied he: ‘but I suppose your father lives hereabout; and, it may be, is of some business that might give a pretence for my calling at his house.’

‘My father keeps a farm,’ said she, ‘about six miles off; but I am at present

' sent with my uncle, who is a gardener, and lives on the other side of the wood.'—' That's unlucky,' rejoined he; ' for I have no sort of occasion for any thing in his way.' You must, then, consent to meet me, my little angel,' added he, tenderly pressing her hand.

On this she blushed, hung down her head, but made no answer; till he repeating his request, and enforcing it by all the rhetoric he was master of, whether real or feigned I will not pretend to say, she at last promised to meet him the next evening at the place where they now were.

He received this grant with the greatest shew of transport, but made her swear to the fulfilling it; after which he asked her by what name he should think of his dear pretty charmer. ' They call me Celia, Sir,' said she. ' Then,' cried he, ' you shall be my Celia of the Woods; and I will be your Jessamy of the Plains.'

The fun beginning now to withdraw his beams, they were obliged to part; but before they did, Celia gave evident indications that her Jessamy had made no slight impression on her young and unexperienced heart.

Jemmy returned from his evening's excursion with thoughts very full of this new amour, which he flattered himself would afford him a most agreeable amusement, without costing much pains in the acquisition.

Besides, the liking he had for this country girl seemed to him to be no breach of his fidelity to Jenny, or any way interfere with the honourable affections he had for that young lady; she being then but in her sixteenth year, himself not quite nineteen, and was not intended by their parents that they should marry till they had attained the age of one and twenty; so that it was a long time to the completion of his felicity with her. I know not whether my fair readers will look upon this as a sufficient excuse for him; but dare answer, that those of the other sex will think what he did was no more than a venial transgression.

As for poor Celia, she was in agitations which she had never known, nor had the least notion of before; she was charmed with the person of Jemmy; she was quite ravished at the kind things he had said to her; and

the liberties he had taken with her at that first interview would have been shocking to her modesty, had they been offered by any of those whom she was accustomed to converse with; yet did that very rudeness in him appear too agreeable to alarm her with any dreadful apprehensions of his repeating it.

More full of joy than fear, she longed for the appointed hour of meeting him again, and halted to the rendezvous, where she had not waited many minutes before the charmer of her soul appeared: he flew to her with open arms; and the transport she felt made her half return the strenuous embrace he gave her.

They sat down together upon a little hillock, beneath the shade of some trees which arched above their heads, and formed a kind of canopy; here Jemmy, finding her softened to his wish, would fain have finished the affair he had made so considerable a progress in; but, on perceiving his intent, she burst a second time into tears; begged he would not ruin her; confessed she loved him, but said she could not bear the thoughts of being naughty.

He could scarce keep himself from laughing; but as he had promised not to make use of force, failed not to urge all the arguments that such a thing would admit of, to persuade her that what he requested of her was not naughtiness in itself, but perfectly conformable to the laws of nature.

She was too ignorant, and perhaps also too little inclined to attempt any thing in order to confute what he said on this occasion; but though she refused with less resolution than she had done, yet she would not absolutely consent to his desires: on which Jemmy, not doubting but the fruit thus ripened would soon fall of itself, told her, that he was not of a humour to accept of any favours granted with reluctance, and that he would content himself with such as he should find her willing to bestow.

He kept his word, and pressed her no farther at that time: this the poor innocent creature looked upon as so great a condescension in him, and thought herself so much obliged by it, that she readily allowed his kisses, his embraces, and, in short, every freedom except that only one which he had assured her he would not take without her leave.

Notwithstanding what they called the

crown of a lover's felicity was wanting, this couple passed the time they were together in a manner pleasing enough to both; nor parted without a mutual promise of re-enjoying the same happiness again on the ensuing day.

Jemmy, however, who was of too sanguine and amorous a disposition not to feel a good deal of impatience for the consummation of his wishes, in order to hasten it, contrived a stratagem, which, from the ascendant he had gained over Celia's heart, gave him no room to doubt would fail of success in making her lovely person no less entirely his. It was this.

He approached her at their next meeting with the most solemn and dejected air. She had brought him a fine posy selected from the choicest flowers in her uncle's garden, tied together with a piece of green ribband: she was going to present it to him, when perceiving the change in his countenance, she started, and asked him if he was not well.

'No, Celia,' answered he, affecting to speak in a very faint voice, 'I am sick; sick at heart.'—'Indeed I am very sorry,' said she: 'smell to this posy; I hope it will refresh you, my dear Sir.'—'No, Celia,' returned he, 'it is not in the power of art or nature to relieve me: you must lose your lover; I must die, my Celia.'—'Now, all that's good forbid it!' cried she, and wept bitterly.

'I must die,' said he again; 'or, what is worse than death, never see my Celia more.' Surprized and overwhelmed with the melting passions of love and grief at hearing him speak in this manner, she threw her taper arms about his neck, laid her cheek close to his, and begged him to tell her what he meant, and the cause of his complaint.

'You dear, cruel maid,' answered he, with a well counterfeited agony, 'it is you who are the cause of my complaint; and it is you alone can be my cure: in short, it is impossible for me to breathe the same air with you and not see you; yet every time I see you gives fresh tortures to my bleeding heart, by letting me know still more of the heaven I am denied possessing. I have, therefore, taken a resolution to banish myself for ever

from you, and from this country. 'You must, then,' continued he, embracing her with the utmost eagerness, 'either lose all your Jessamy, or give me all my Celia.'

The consternation she was in is not to be expressed; but every look, every emotion, betrayed to him the inward trouble of her mind. She could not speak for several minutes; but at last cried out, with a voice interrupted with sighs—'Oh, Mr. Jessamy! will you, can you, be so barbarous to leave me, leave me for ever?'

'Call not that barbarous which your unkindness drives me to,' rejoined he: 'if I loved you with a common passion, I could, perhaps, be easy under the severe restriction you have laid me under; but you are too beautiful, and I too much enamoured: oh, then, throw off at once this cruel coyness! this unmerciful reserve! Generously say you will be all mine, and make both me and yourself completely blessed.'

He uttered these last words in accents which pierced her to the soul: she was all confusion; irresolute for a while; sometimes looking on him, and sometimes on the ground: but love at length, prevailing love, got the better of that bashfulness, which it is likely had, more than any other principle, till now restrained her from yielding to his suit; she threw herself into his arms; and, hiding her head within his bosom—'I cannot part with you,' cried she; 'I can deny you nothing; you have my heart, and must command whatever Celia has to give.'

There is a strong probability, if it does not amount even to a certainty, that Jemmy would not have given her time for a second thought, which might have revoked the promise she had made; but his plot, hitherto successful, was now entirely frustrated by the sudden sound of men's voices at a distance, and which seemed to approach more near.

'Oh lud!' cried she, extremely frightened, 'I hear my uncle: if he should come this way, and find me with a gentleman, he will tell my father, and I shall be half killed. Dear Mr. Jessamy, make all the haste you can out of the wood; I will go and face him, and pretend I was going to



‘to carry these flowers to a great lady who lives hard by.’

Jemmy could not forbear cursing both the uncle and the interruption; but thought proper to comply with Celia’s advice, after having exacted an oath from her to meet him again the next day, and fulfil her engagement; which she readily gave, and then tripped away as fast as her legs could carry her.

Thus did they part, not to see each other again for a much longer time than either of them imagined; the cause of which will presently be shewn.

#### CHAP. XXII.

IN WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT WILL BE FOUND HIGHLY PROPER, THAT SOME PASSAGES FORMERLY INSERTED SHOULD BE RECAPITULATED, IN ORDER TO FORM THE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE WHICH ARE NOW UPON THE TAPIS.

JEMMY returned to the college in no very good humour, as may be supposed, though the mortification of the disappointment he had received was very much alleviated by the assurance he had of Celia’s affection for him; but on his entering into his chambers he met with something which made the adventures of the day, and indeed all that passed between him and the country maid, vanish like a dream from his remembrance.

A letter was presented to him, which had been left for him by the post, summoning him immediately to London to receive the last commands and blessing of a dying father. Filial piety and dutiful affection now took up all his mind, and he thought of nothing but to be speedy in his obedience to the authoritative mandate.

Accordingly he arose the next morning by break of day, rode post, and arrived in London before evening, as has been already related in the beginning of the first volume of this work.

On his going back to the university, after the melancholy solemnity of his father’s funeral was over, Celia came again a little into his head; and though he designed shortly to quit Oxford entirely, yet he thought that for the time

he said he could not have a more agreeable amusement than the prosecution of that amour to divert his affliction for the loss he had sustained.

To this end he went to the wood, ranged through every part of that scene of their loves, but found no Celia there; he knew her uncle’s name, but not directly where he lived; or if he had, would not have thought it proper to go to his house to make any enquiry concerning her: happening, however, to see a fellow cutting down wood, he ventured to ask him if one Mr. Adams, a gardener, did not live somewhere thereabouts. ‘Aye, Sir,’ replied the man; ‘if you turn by that thicket, on your right-hand, you may see his house.’—‘Nay,’ said Jemmy carelessly, ‘I have no business with him; I have only heard that he is a very honest man.’—‘Aye, Sir,’ rejoined the other, ‘that he is, to be sure, as ever broke bread: I have known him above these thirty years, and never heard any thing ill of him in my life.’

Jemmy finding this fellow seemed to be of a communicative disposition, demanded of him what family Mr. Adams had. ‘Ah, Sir!’ said the man, ‘he has only two boys; one he brings up to his own business, and the other is a gentleman’s servant: his wife, rest her soul! has been dead two years come Michaelmas next; and he would have been quite helpless, if he had not got a brother’s daughter of his to look after his things; but she is gone now, I know not what the poor man will do: he was to have a maid, and there are so few of them good.’—‘What! is his niece dead too?’ cried Jemmy pretty hastily. ‘No, Sir,’ answered he; ‘but she is gone away. Her father, belike, sent for her home; I know not on what account, not I; but she has left poor Adams, and he is in a piteous plight.’

Jemmy being desirous of receiving as much intelligence as he could of his little mistress, affected to be in some concern for the honest gardener, her uncle, pretending he had heard much in his commendation from those that knew him; and said it was a great pity that the maid should be sent for away, as she was so useful to him, and so notable a manager.

‘Aye, very handy indeed, Sir,’ answered Mr. Adams’s friend; ‘she kept every

‘every thing in the house so clean and so tight, it would have done your heart good to have seen it: but as to her father’s sending for her away, I do not know; mayhap he had a mind to have her under his own eye; he has the character of a parlous shrewd man, and sees things a great while before they come.’

‘Was there any danger, then, to be apprehended in her staying?’ demanded Jemmy. ‘I can say nothing to that, Sir; she is as likely, as comely a lass as any in the country round, but I believe very honest; though she has a kind of leer with her eyes, and is always simpering and smirking; and you know, Sir, that gives encouragement. There were a power of young fellows that had a hankering after her. I have heard my wife say, a thousand times I believe, and she is seldom mistaken, that she wished Celia might come to good.’

‘Besides, Sir,’ continued he, shaking his head, ‘we are so near the university here; and the young students are most of them wild blades, and spend their time more in running after the girls than in their books.’

It must be observed, that Jemmy was now in his travelling dress; for had he appeared as a gentleman-commoner, nobody can suppose that the countryman would have been so free in his discourse with him; which being once entered into, he would probably have gone on with till he had related all he knew of the news of the whole parish.

But Jemmy having satisfied his curiosity as fully as he could have desired, and much more than he had reason to expect, grew quite weary of this kind of conversation, and soon after took leave of his informer, and walked back to the college.

He had now lost his Celia of the Woods: he knew, indeed, where to find her; but as his stay in Oxford was to be very short, and he had many friends to see before he went away, he had no time to devote to the pursuit of a mistress so far removed; besides, he knew not what inconveniences might attend his seeking her at a father’s house; and was too indolent in his nature to risk any difficulties for the sake of gratifying a passion such as the beauty of that girl had inspired him with.

After he had quitted the university entirely, and was settled in London, besides the society of his dear Jenny, whom, in spite of the little excursions of his youth, he loved with the most pure and respectful passion, new scenes of life, new amusements, new pleasures, crowded upon his senses, and presently obliterated the memory of those he left behind.

Celia no more was wished for, no more thought on by him. How was it possible that after so long a space of time as two whole years, and having seen such a variety of beautiful faces, he should be able to recollect his plain country maid, under the character of a fine town lady, blazing with gold and jewels, attended by a splendid equipage, and dignified with a title?

This adventure, notwithstanding, served greatly to dissipate all the chagrin which the story invented in relation to his infidelity to Jenny had involved him in: he could not keep himself from being highly pleased at meeting with a person who had once so many charms for him, nor with finding, by her behaviour towards him, that so prodigious a change of fortune had not made the least change in her sentiments on his account: in a word, all the long dormant inclinations, which he had formerly felt for Celia, now revived in his bosom at the sight of Lady Hardy, and he hesitated not a moment whether he should comply with the appointment she had made him.

How uncertain, how wandering, are the passions of mankind! How yielding to every temptation that presents itself! Seldom are they masters of their own hearts or actions, especially at Jemmy’s years; and well may they deceive others in what they are deceived themselves!

When they profess to love no other object than the present, they may, perhaps, resolve to be as just as they pretend; but, alas! this is not in their power, even though it may be in their will: they can no more command their wishes than they can their thoughts; which, as Shakespeare tells us, ‘Once lost, are gone beyond the clouds.’ We often see that, to reverse this boasted constancy, is the work of but a single minute; and then, in vain, their past professions recoil upon their minds: in

vain

vain the idea of the forsaken fair haunts them in nightly visions—

‘For mighty love, which honour does despise,  
‘For reasons, shews them a new charmer’s  
‘eyes.’

### CHAP. XXIII.

CONTAINS ONLY SUCH ACCIDENTS  
AS ARE TOO COMMON TO EXCITE  
MUCH WONDER.

I Would not be understood, by the observations made on the generality of mankind in the close of the preceding chapter, that the vice of inconstancy ought to be imputed to the hero of this history: what in most others is the effect of a love of variety, was produced in him by the too great vivacity and sprightliness of his temper. He had sometimes very strong inclinations, but never a real affection for any but his dear Jenny; and, though these may have led him into errors which render him not wholly blameless, yet the permanence of his devoirs to that sole object of his honourable passion, shews his character to have in it infinitely more of light than shade.

Let no one, therefore, pass too severe a censure on his conduct in regard to this fair tempter, either as Celia of the Woods, or Lady Hardy. Whatever was the first motive of his addresses to her, curiosity to know how this transformation came about might now have, and doubtless had, some share in exciting him to renew his acquaintance with her.

I shall not, however, as I have more than once assured my readers, make any attempts either to palliate or disguise the truth. Jemmy was punctual to the hour that had been prefixed by his mistress; yet found her in the Park before him: she had placed herself on a bench behind the Mall, as being most free from company. When he first discerned her, she seemed talking to a young woman, who stood waiting near her, but left her ladyship alone before he could come up to them.

‘How little possible was it for me to expect this blessing!’ said he, approaching her. ‘Hold, hold!’ cried she, interrupting him; ‘we have no time at present for fine speeches; and you will be surprized to find your-

self summoned here only to be told you must be gone.’—‘I should be indeed surprized,’ rejoined he; ‘but how have I deserved to be so unhappy?’

‘No, no!’ replied she, smiling; ‘you are not unhappy, though I could easily tell you how you deserve to be so: but this is no place either for a quarrel or a reconciliation. You must know, I could not come out alone, for fear of giving suspicion to my old husband, so brought my woman with me; but, as soon as I saw you, sent her home under the pretence of fetching my snuff-box, which I left behind me for that purpose: she will be here again in two minutes, for we live but in the next street, and have a door into the Park. Therefore take this,’ continued she; ‘and be careful to do as this directs.’

‘Let me first examine how I approve of the contents,’ said he, with his accustomed gaiety. ‘You may,’ answered she; ‘but then you will lose the only moment that I have to tell you I am as much yours as ever, and that I have not known one joy in life since last we parted.’—‘Angelick creature!’ cried he, with a voice and eyes all transport; ‘Oh! that I had the opportunity of throwing myself at your feet, to thank, as it deserves, this goodness! Where—when—shall we meet again?’

‘The paper I gave you will inform you,’ replied she; ‘but do not disappoint Lady Hardy in the same manner as you did Celia of the Woods.’—‘Oh, I can clear myself of that!’ cried he: ‘it was a sad necessity that drove me from you; and I had no means of conveying a letter to you; but I have fought you since.’—‘And I have fought you too,’ rejoined she: ‘but we must talk of this hereafter; I see my woman coming. Leave me, for Heaven’s sake! And if you stay in the walks, pass carelessly by, and seem not to regard me.’ Jemmy had only time to tell her that he would read the dear mandate, and obey whatever it enjoined.

After speaking these words, he retired, with as much haste as he could, to the other end of the walk; where he examined what had been given him by the lady, and found it contained only these few expressive lines.

‘GO,

‘G O, at six this evening precisely, to Mrs. Comode, the habit-maker, in \*\*\* Street: she is already apprized of your coming, but knows not your person; so you have only to say you come for the ribband; on which she will immediately conduct you to  
‘Yours, &c.’

It has been observed through the course of this history, that Jemmy, in spite of his gay temper, had sometimes the power of thinking very seriously. The billet he had in his hand, together with the looks and gestures of the lady, filled him with reflections which, it cannot be supposed, she either intended or wished to inspire.

To find that the most timid bashfulness, the most innocent simplicity of mind and manners, thus improved, in the compass of so small a space of time, into all the assured airs of a woman who had passed her whole life in artifice and intrigue, seemed to him a thing so strange, so out of nature, that he would never have believed it possible, had he not seen it verified in the character of his Celia, at present Lady Hardy.

This transformation did not render her more amiable in his eyes: he was, however, punctual to the assignation; though, it is pretty certain, his curiosity of knowing those accidents which had occasioned so extraordinary a revolution, both in her circumstances and behaviour, had as great a share in carrying him thither as any other motive.

On his coming to Mrs. Comode's, he found the obliging gentlewoman ready to receive him; and, on his giving the appointed signal, led him, with a smiling countenance, into a back-parlour behind the shop, where Lady Hardy already waited his approach.

He was doubtless about to salute her with some fine speech; but she no sooner saw him enter, than, starting from her seat, she threw herself at once into his arms, before they were even open to receive her. ‘My dear, dear Mr. Jessamy!’ cried she, with an undescribable softness in her voice and eyes, ‘a few days past how little did I hope for this happiness!’

Such love, such tenderness, in one so young and beautiful, must have warmed the heart of a dull stoick, much more that of one endowed by nature with the

most amorous inclinations. Jemmy must have been as insensible as he was really the reverse, had he not felt the force of such united charms. He returned all her transports, her caresses, with interest: they said the most passionate and endearing things to each other; but the energy of their expressions, as they were so often interrupted with kisses and embraces, would be lost in the repetition; for, as Mr. Dryden justly says—

‘Imperfect sentences, and broken sounds,  
‘And nonsense, is the eloquence of love.’

After the first demonstrations of their mutual joy on this meeting were over—‘I will not,’ said she, ‘be so ungenerous to accuse you of a crime of which I know you clear. I discovered the melancholy occasion which called you in such haste to London: but tell me, my dear Jessamy,’ continued she, ‘did not your heart feel some anguish on finding yourself obliged to leave your Celia just as you had prevailed upon her to swear she would be yours?’

He could not, without being guilty of as much ill manners as ingratitude, avoid pretending he had suffered greatly on that account: but, whatever was wanting of sincerity in this assertion, he atoned for in the relation he made her of the pains he had taken in searching for her on his return to Oxford.

She laughed heartily at the detail he gave her of the conversation he had with the countryman concerning her uncle Adams, and the affairs of his family: ‘And now,’ said she, ‘I will make you the confidante of every thing that has happened to me since I had the pleasure of seeing you.’

Jemmy then telling her it was a favour for which he had the utmost impatience, she immediately gave him the satisfaction he desired.

#### C H A P. XXIV.

THE HISTORY OF CELIA OF THE WOODS, PROSECUTED IN THAT OF LADY HARDY, AND RELATED BY HERSELF TO JEMMY.

‘I Will not,’ said she, ‘poison the sweets of our present moments with any description of the bitter pangs I suffered in not finding you,  
23



‘ as I expected, in the wood : I had too much dependance on your love and honour to entertain one thought that this disappointment was an act of your own choice; and therefore feared that you was either suddenly taken sick, or that some other ill accident had befallen you.

‘ Under these apprehensions I passed the most cruel night that ever was; nor did the day bring me much more tranquillity: though I sometimes flattered myself that business, company, or some such-like enemy to love, had kept you from me the evening before, and that you would not fail on this to come and make atonement for the disquiet you had given me.

‘ Accordingly, in this hope, I went, about the usual hour, to the dear scene of our past meetings: I threw myself on the little hillock where we had sat; I kissed, I embraced, the tree you had leaned against; I invoked Love and all it’s powers to bring my Jessamy once more to my arms; and ran to the entrance of the wood, and vainly still expected your approach. I envied the little birds that hopped among the boughs above my head; and wished to be one of them, that I might fly to the place which I then thought contained you, and see in what manner you were employed.

‘ I had like to have forgot,’ continued she, ‘ I promised that I would not trouble you either with my grief or my despair; yet I am unwarily running into a detail of both. Pardon me, my dear Jessamy, and prepare to hear what contrivances my passion for you inspired me with.

‘ It was almost dark when I left the wood: my uncle was come out of the grounds, and at home before me; he chid me for being abroad so late; but I made an excuse which, though not worth your hearing, passed well enough upon him. I rose very early the next morning, and wrote a little letter to you; but, when I had done, knew not which way to convey it to you; nor, indeed, how to direct it properly, as I had never heard you say to which of the colleges you belonged.

‘ Resolved, however, at any rate, and whatever I did, to be satisfied concerning your health, and what was

‘ become of you, I went to Oxford, under pretence of buying something I stood in need of. I was afraid and ashamed to go to the university, and ask for you; but believing that you must be known in town, enquired at several great shops, but without any success, till a perriwig-maker directed me to go to a coffee-house, which he said you used every day.

‘ Here I was informed, that you had been sent for to London, on account of your father’s indisposition, and was gone the day before; but that not having quitted the university, it was expected you would not long be absent. This intelligence a little comforted me, and I returned with a satisfaction in my mind, which I believe might spread a more than ordinary glee upon my countenance.

‘ But, however it was, my looks, it seems, were that day ordained to do for me what I never had vanity enough to expect from them.

‘ On my coming home, I found a chariot, with two footmen, waiting at our door, and within a very old grave gentleman busy in discourse with my uncle: the latter had some time before got a slip from a fine extock plant out of a nobleman’s garden, which he had reared to such perfection, that it was now loaded with flowers; and it was concerning the purchase of this, and some other curiosities my uncle’s nursery afforded, that had brought this guest to our house.

‘ I fancy, my dear Jessamy, that you already imagine that the person I am speaking of was no other than Sir Thomas Hardy, whose wife I now am, and who you saw yesterday with me at the auction: it was he indeed, whose heart, without designing it, I captivated at first sight.’

Jemmy on this could not forbear making compliments on the force of her charms; to which she only replied, that of how great service soever they had been to her interest, she took no pleasure in looking lovely in any eyes but those of her dear Jessamy; and then went on with her discourse.

‘ The old baronet,’ resumed she, ‘ had his eyes fixed upon me from the moment I came into the room, and soon took an opportunity of asking my uncle if I was his daughter. “ No,

S

“ please

"please your honour," replied he, "she is only my niece. Farmer Adams, one of your honour's tenants, is her father."

"Oh, then," cried Sir Thomas, "I suppose he has sent her hither to be out of the way of some handsome young man or another whom she may have taken a liking to."—"No, please your honour," said my uncle, "I hope the girl has no such thoughts in her head as yet: my brother only lets her be here, out of kindness to me, to look after my house."

"A very pretty housekeeper indeed," rejoined Sir Thomas; "and I do not doubt but she manages as well as can be expected."—"For her years, Sir," said my uncle. "I dare swear she does," cried my new lover; "and, were it not for robbing you, I should be glad to have such a one to look after my affairs."

"I could not forbear blushing excessively at these words; though I was far from imagining he had any design in them: he said no more, however, at that time; but having ordered my uncle to bring home the plants he had bought of him, went into his chariot, though not without giving me a very amorous look as he passed by."

"For my part, I should have thought no more of this stuff afterwards, but was very much surprized when I saw him come again the next day; my uncle happened to be abroad, and I was sitting alone at work in a little room just by the door, which was wide open, and he came directly in."

"Where is your uncle, my pretty maid?" said he; "I would buy some things of him." I replied, that I believed he was not far off, and would call the boy to go in search of him.—"It is no matter," returned he, taking hold of my hand to prevent my doing as I had said; "and, to tell you the truth, I am glad of this opportunity of saying something to you that may be for your advantage."

"I wondered what he meant; but sat down again on his bidding me: he then told me I was a pretty maid, and would be more pretty still, if I was dressed as I ought to be. "It is a pity," said he, "that such limbs as these should be employed in any

hard or servile work. I know very well, that neither your father nor your uncle are able to do much for you; therefore, if you will be one of my family, you shall eat and drink of the best, have fine cloaths, and have no business but to see that the servants do theirs."

"To all this I answered, that I was very much obliged to his honour for the offer he made me, but that I was not accustomed to the ways of gentlemen, and in no respect qualified for the place he mentioned."

"Yes, my dear girl," cried he, "you are sufficiently qualified for every thing I shall require of you." In speaking these words, he threw his withered arms about my neck, and kissed me with a vehemence which one would not think his years capable of."

"I protest to you," continued she, "that I was so foolish as not to apprehend the base design he had upon me, till this last action convinced me of it. I struggled, and got loose from an embrace which was then so detestable to me; I told him that I was not for his purpose, and that I never would be the wicked creature he would have me."

"You are a little fool, and do not consider the value of the offer you reject," said he, throwing a handful of guineas into my lap. "See here; your pocket shall be always filled with these, to dispose of as you think fit; you shall have what you please, do what you please, command me and my whole estate; I desire only a little love in recompense."

"I despise all you can give or promise," answered I; "therefore take back your gold, or I shall throw it out of doors, for your servants to pick up: poor as I am, I will not sell my honesty."

"It was not in this manner, my Jessamy," pursued she, looking fondly on him, "that I withstood the attempts you made upon my virtue. How wide is the difference between love and interest! My old baronet, however, took my behaviour as the effect of the most pure and perfect virtue; he was both amazed and charmed with it; and, approaching me with looks as respectful as they had lately been presuming—" "Well, my lovely maid," said he, "I will not

"not henceforward go about to seduce your innocence: I love you; but will endeavour to conquer my desires."

"I answered in a tone pretty rude, I believe, that it was the only thing he could oblige me in; on which he stood in a considerative posture for some moments: at last, coming out of it—"Celia," said he, looking earnestly on my face, "it is my desire to do every thing to oblige you; and, since that will do it, shall come here no more." With these words he turned from me, and it was with much ado I prevailed on him to take up his money; but I protested a single piece should not remain behind."

Her ladyship was going on, but Mrs. Commode, who was all complaisance, came in with tea, which occasioned a small interruption; after which she resumed her discourse, as will be seen in the next chapter.

#### CHAP. XXV.

CONTAINS THE SEQUEL OF LADY HARDY'S STORY, WITH OTHER MATTERS OF SOME CONSEQUENCE.

AFTER my old baronet had left me," said she, "and I had leisure to reflect on what had passed, though I was far from repenting of having refused the offer he had made of living with him; yet, to confess the truth, I thought there was no necessity for giving myself the grand airs I had done, and that I might have taken the gold he would have forced upon me, without any breach either of my modesty or virtue: but this it was which, as he has since told me, gave him so high an opinion of my spirit and delicacy, as made him think me worthy of the dignity he was determined to raise me to.

"The third day after that in which he had been with me, a man and horse arrived from my father, with orders to bring me home directly. I cannot tell whether myself or uncle were most surprized at this message, but am certain that both of us were very much so. "Sure," said he, "brother does not intend to take her from me without letting me know, that I might provide for myself."

"I can say nothing to that," replied the fellow; "but I believe she will not come back in haste; for he bid me tell her she must bring all the things away that she has here." This convincing him that my father had indeed taken it into his head to keep me at home, he complained bitterly of his unkindness, and asked the man a thousand questions concerning my being sent for so suddenly away, in none of which the other was able to give him any satisfaction.

"I was all this while in tears, which my uncle, poor man, imputed to my good-nature and sorrow for leaving him thus destitute; but, alas! they proceeded from a cause very different from what he imagined, that of being obliged to remove so much farther from the only place where I could ever hope to see my dear Jessamy again.

"But there was no remedy; the orders I had received must be submitted to: I therefore went up to my room; packed up my little wardrobe, which I gave to the man to put before him; took leave of my uncle; got upon the pillion; and, with an aching heart, trotted towards home as fast as the horse, thus loaded, could carry us.

"On my arrival, I found my father waiting at the door to receive me: he lifted me off the horse himself; kissed me; said I was a good girl for making such haste to come when he sent for me: in fine, I never remember to have seen him in such a humour in my whole life. My mother was the same: she caught me in her arms as soon as she saw me, and cried—"My dear Celia, thou wert born to be a blessing to us all!" I was strangely surprized at all this complaisance and joy; but as my parents made many circumlocutions in their discourse before they informed me of the motive, I will tell it you in a more brief manner.

"Sir Thomas Hardy, it seems, had been with my father; told him he had seen me at my uncle's; that he liked me; and, if he would give his consent, would marry me, as soon as things could be got ready for that purpose. You may be sure my father did not make many words to this bargain; and it was agreed between them, that I should be immediately

sent for home, in order to be cloathed according to the station I was going to enjoy.

The astonishment I was in at hearing all this is impossible to be expressed; I shall therefore only say, that it was such as almost turned my brain, and for a good while allowed me not the power of knowing whether I was most pleased or troubled at an event so prodigious.

Early the next morning a servant belonging to my lover brought me a portmanteau, in which I found several rolls of various coloured silks; a great deal of lace and Dresden work, with some pieces of Holland of an extraordinary fineness; in the portmanteau was also a small ivory casket, containing a gold repeating watch and equipage; a set of diamond buckles for my stays; a large pearl necklace with a solitaire, and several other trinkets of a considerable value.

'You may believe,' continued she, that my eyes were dazzled with the sight of such things as I had never seen in my whole life before; but I had scarce time to examine them thoroughly before Sir Thomas came himself to visit me: he told me he was glad to see me at home, and asked me how I liked the presents he had made. I was very much confounded; but had courage enough to reply, that I liked them very well, especially as they were accompanied with honourable intentions. This answer pleased him so much, that he could not forbear taking me in his arms, though my father and mother were in the room, saying at the same time—"My dear girl, I have nothing for thee but the most honourable intentions; and what I have given thee now are mere trifles in comparison of what I will hereafter make thee mistress of."

He staid with us near two hours; and, before he went away, gave my mother fifty guineas, to pay for making my cloaths, and to provide for me such other things as she should find necessary, earnestly recommending to her to get all ready for our marriage with as much speed as possible.

He might have spared himself the trouble of this injunction; for never were two people more eagerly anxious for any thing than my poor father and mother to see me disposed of in a

manner so infinitely beyond all they could have hoped. The persons employed in equipping me were so much pressed, and so well paid, that in a very few days nothing was wanting for my nuptials, which were celebrated by the parson of the parish at my father's house; after which I was carried to that which is now my home, and as pleasant a seat as any in the whole county.

During the first week of our marriage, my head was so taken up with the coach and six; number of my servants; the magnificence of every thing about me; the title of my Ladyship; and the compliments made on that occasion; that I thought of nothing but my new grandeur: but all these things became less dazzling to me as they grew more customary; and all my relish for them vanished with their novelty.

The idea of my dear Jessamy now returned to my remembrance; I sighed; I languished; and thought I could have exchanged all my present opulence for one soft hour of love with that first and only charmer of my soul.

My husband's fondness for me increased every day; but, alas! the endearments of a man of his years are rather disgustful than agreeable; and I have often wished, that as it is impossible I should ever have any love for him, that he had less for me, in spite of the advantages I receive by it.

In this manner, my dear Jessamy, added she, 'I passed two whole years, quite hopeless of ever tasting more substantial joys, till business calling Sir Thomas to London, chance has blest me with the sight of him who never has been absent from my mind.'

Jemmy, perceiving she had done, thanked her for the gratification of his curiosity, and the share he had in her remembrance; and then reminded her, that at the last meeting in the wood she had made a promise to him, which he had now a right to claim the performance of.

'If I had not intended to pay my debt,' replied she with a smile, 'I should certainly have avoided the presence of my creditor.'—"When, then," cried he, 'where shall we meet? for I suppose this is no proper place for the continuance of our interviews.'

'You are mistaken,' said she; 'Mrs. Comode



‘Comode and I know each other perfectly well; Sir Thomas carried me to Tunbridge last year; she kept a shop there at that time; I bought all my things of her, and we soon grew very intimate; on my coming to town I renewed my acquaintance with her; and am very sure of her readiness to oblige me in every thing I desire.’

‘It falls out a little unlucky, indeed,’ pursued she, ‘that we could not go up stairs to-day; but it seems some other company had appointed to drink tea there before Mrs. Comode knew any thing of our coming.’

He then begged she would prefix a time for their happy meeting: on which she told him, that she was to go the next morning to see Windsor Castle, and that Sir Thomas proposed staying there two or three days; but that as soon as they returned, he might be sure she would fly to her dear Jessamy, with a transport at least equal to his own.

‘But how shall I be apprised,’ cried he; ‘how know when to expect the blissful moment?’—‘I have a contrivance for that,’ answered she; ‘I will send a little note to Mrs. Comode, which you may either call for here, or she shall leave for you on your giving her your directions.’

‘I will not give her that trouble,’ said he, ‘nor fail to wait on her every morning till the dear mandate shall arrive.’—‘Then I will take care,’ rejoined she, ‘to send the evening before, in order to prevent you from being previously engaged elsewhere.’

Jemmy was beginning to express himself in a very tender manner on this occasion, when the door immediately flew open, and a lady rushed into the room; perceiving company there, she staid not a quarter of a minute, yet long enough to put them both into a good deal of confusion, especially Jemmy, who by his momentary glance, discovered she was one whom he had often seen with Jenny.

This was, indeed, that same officious friend, who had told Jenny the manner in which she had surprized him; but had he known with what moderation that lady received the intelligence, it would have added, if possible, to the love and admiration he had for her.

But whatever vexation this accident might give him on his own account, he took care to conceal it under the ap-

pearance of his great concern for the reputation of his dear Lady Hardy, who, after the first hurry of her spirits was over, seemed perfectly easy, and endeavoured to make him so, saying, that as she had been but three weeks in town, and knew very few people in it, she did not apprehend any danger from this intrusion.

He gave but little attention to what she said on this subject; second thoughts made him repent his promise of calling every day at Mrs. Comode’s, as there was more than a possibility of being met there again by the lady who had just left them, or of being seen by some other of Jenny’s acquaintance.

As soon as Mrs. Comode had got rid of her customer, she came in and made an apology for what had happened, by relating the accident of the garter, as the lady had told it her, assuring them withal, that the next time they did her the honour of a visit, she would take care they should not be interrupted.

Lady Hardy then told her, they had been settling a correspondence together, and was going to say in what manner it was to be conducted; but Jemmy prevented her, by crying out—‘Hold, Madam, business or company may detain me from receiving your ladyship’s commands so soon as they arrive. I should be glad, therefore, that Mrs. Comode would be at the pains to send them directly to me.’

The obliging shop-keeper replied, that she should always take a pleasure in serving Lady Hardy, or any of her friends; on which he told her his name, and that of the street wherein he lived.

After this nothing material passed; and Lady Hardy not judging it proper to stay abroad too long, the lovers separated with a mutual expectation of seeing each other again at the same place in a few days.

#### CHAP. XXVI.

WILL, IN SOME MEASURE, CONTRIBUTE TO RECONCILE JEMMY TO THOSE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN OFFENDED WITH HIM.

HOW much soever Jemmy might be envied by the young amorous sparks of the town for the adventure he was now engaged in, yet certain it is  
he

he felt less satisfaction in it than might have been expected, either from his own years and warmth of constitution, or from the beauty and love of his mistress.

Celia of the Woods, it is true, had at first sight inspired him with very strong desires; but then it was a transient flame, a sudden flash of inclination, which ceased on being absent from the object; the idea of her charms had been long since forgot; and if it returned, on finding her again in the person of Lady Hardy, it was but a faint resemblance of what he felt before, and could be called little more than the ghost of his first passion.

The reason of this is pretty evident; there is a charm in innocence more attracting to a nice and delicate heart than any other perfection whatsoever: the harmless simplicity of the rural maid was not only now all lost in the fine lady, but exchanged for a certain boldness of looks and behaviour, and a spirit for intrigue, no way engaging to the penetrating Jemmy.

Besides, it must be remembered, that when he first saw Celia he was two years younger, and consequently had less solidity, and, perhaps, a less sensibility of the merits of Jenny than he has since acquired, by being a more constant witness of them: to this may also be added, that an amour with Lady Hardy was not a thing of his own seeking, but rather in a manner forced upon him; a circumstance which, in most men, would have destroyed a great part of the relish for it.

From all that has been said, it may very justly be concluded, that Jemmy considered the affair he was entering into only as a mere matter of amusement for his senses, without allowing it any share in the affections of his mind; and it is a point which might bear some dispute, whether, had the business which so long detained him in London been completed, he would have staid one day longer in respect to Lady Hardy, or have rather chose to have gone directly down to Bath.

An accident altogether unexpected, however, prevented him from being put to the trial, and left him not at liberty to do either the one or the other, by snatching him away at once from the pursuit both of his honourable and dishonourable flame.

The business he had so much complained of was adjusted while Lady Hardy was at Windsor, and he now had it in his power either to wait her return to London or to go down to Bath: he was, perhaps, debating within himself which of these two he should do, when he received a billet from Mrs. Comode, with a small piece of paper inclosed in it; that from Mrs. Comode contained these lines.

‘ TO JAMES JESSAMY, ESQ.

‘ HONOURED SIR,  
‘ I Just now have received the inclosed  
‘ from the lady you know of: it  
‘ was brought by her footman, unsealed as you see, and addressed to me to prevent suspicion: her ladyship has a world of wit; but you will easily comprehend the meaning, and not fail to favour with your company, at the appointed hour, those who so much desire it. I am, with the profoundest respect, honoured Sir, your most devoted, and most faithful servant,

‘ B. COMODE.

‘ P. S. You may depend, Sir, that every thing shall be ordered so as you may be here in all the privacy you can wish.’

In the other piece of paper he found these words.

‘ TO MRS. COMODE.

‘ DEAR MRS. COMODE,  
‘ I Came last night from Windsor, and am in prodigious want of a new robe de chambre, for I am quite weary and sick of those I have by me; therefore pray get me some patterns of silks, such as you think I shall like. I will be with you to-morrow at five o’clock precisely, to make my choice. I am, dear Comode, yours,

‘ HARDY.’

‘ P. S. Be sure you do not fail to get the silks ready against I come.’

Whatever uncertainty his mind was in before, this turned the balance, and he sent his compliments by the bearer  
to

to Mrs. Comode, with an assurance that he would wait on her as she desired: but he had scarce dispatched this message, when a footman belonging to one Mr. Ellwood came to let him know his master entreated his company immediately at his house, on business of the utmost importance.

This Mr. Ellwood was one of those gentlemen who had been appointed by Jemmy's father for the trustees and guardians of his minority. He was a man of great fortune, great abilities, and yet greater integrity: our young hero had a thousand obligations to him, particularly in relation to that perplexing affair he had lately been involved in, and which he could not so easily have accomplished without his kind assistance.

The eldest son of this worthy person had been a fellow collegian with Jemmy: they had lived together in the most perfect harmony while at the university; nor had the friendship between them slackened since their quitting it. They had not now seen each other for a considerable time, the old gentleman, who lived for the most part at his seat in Bedfordshire, having sent for his son, in order to make his addresses to a young lady of that county, an heiress to a large estate.

The attachment Jemmy had to this family made him presently comply with the summons that had been sent him. Mr. Ellwood hearing he was come, met him at the top of the stairs, and with a countenance which expressed the inward satisfaction of his mind—'Dear Mr. Jessamy,' cried he, 'I have news to tell you, which I am certain you will participate in the joy of; my boy has gained his point, the lady has consented, and we must go and see them tacked together.'

Jemmy had heard much talk of this courtship, and that it went on very successfully, but did not think it had been so near a conclusion: he expressed, however, the interest he took in so felicitous an event in terms the most obliging and sincere.

'I doubt not,' said Mr. Ellwood, 'but the goodness of your heart makes you pleased with every thing that gives pleasure to your friends: but this is not all we require of you; Harry must needs have you as a witness of his marriage; he presses me

'to engage you to accompany me to Ham-Hall; and here is a letter for you, which he sent inclosed in mine; I have not been so curious or so ill-mannered as to open it; but I suppose it is on the account I mention: pray, see whether I am mistaken.'

Jemmy having taken the letter out of his hand, instantly broke the seal, and read aloud as follows—

'TO JAMES JESSAMY, ESQ.

'DEAR FRIEND,  
'I Have now done with hopes, fears, and suspense; the angel I so long solicited has at last consented to be mine, and I am shortly to enjoy a happiness which can have no alloy but the want of your presence.

'I would fain flatter myself, that the earnest desire I have to see you on this blest occasion will be sufficient to bring you to Ham-Hall; but lest I should be too vain in this point, have entreated my father, whose influence is questionless more powerful, to omit nothing which may engage you to accompany him; and in expectation remain, with the greatest sincerity, dear Jessamy, your most affectionate friend, and very humble servant,

'H. ELLWOOD.'

This invitation very much disconcerted Jemmy: the regard he had for those that made it, rendered him very unwilling to deny, and the double obligation he had laid himself under, first of meeting Lady Hardy at Mrs. Comode's, and secondly of going down to Bath, made him not well know how to comply.

Mr. Ellwood, on perceiving he paused and seemed in some dilemma, told him he would have no denial, and remonstrated to him that he could have no engagements in town with any persons who were more truly his friends than those that now desired his company in Bedfordshire.

Jemmy was a little ashamed at the reluctance he had shewn to this journey, and could find no better excuse for it than that which was indeed the chief motive, his having promised Jenny to follow her to Bath, and the expectation he knew she was in every day of seeing him arrive.

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'If that be all,' cried the old gentleman, 'the difficulty is easily removed; you have only to write to her, and relate the occasion that keeps you from her somewhat longer than you intended; and I will answer for her she has good-nature enough to pardon you.'

Jemmy being still desirous of finding some excuse to avoid this invitation, repeated the discourse he had with Mr. Morgan, and the report which was spread about town in relation to his supposed infidelity to Jenny, urging the necessity of his being with her before she should hear any thing of it.

Mr. Ellwood laughed at the apprehensions he discovered on this account; replied, that it was not likely that such an idle story should be told her, especially while she remained at so great a distance from the place where it was invented: 'But in case,' continued he, 'any malicious person should convey the scandal to her, as the thing is utterly without foundation, it may be easily disproved when you come together, and she would allow it a weakness in herself to have given credit to it.'

This, with some other arguments, assisted by Jemmy's own unwillingness to disoblige him, soon decided the matter; and as Mr. Ellwood said he purposed to set out early the next morning, Jenny's lover took his leave to make what preparations were necessary for his departure, as well as to give an account to both his mistresses of what had happened.

#### CH A P. XXVII.

CONTAINS, AMONG OTHER PARTICULARS, A MORE FULL EXPLANATION OF JEMMY'S INNOCENCE IN SOME THINGS WHICH HAD VERY MUCH THE APPEARANCE OF BEING CRIMINAL.

JEMMY had no sooner taken leave of Mr. Ellwood, than he wrote to Lady Hardy, telling her, that an unavoidable necessity had torn him from his wishes; that he was compelled to go into the country the next morning, and consequently must be deprived of the pleasure of meeting her, as he had hoped, according to appointment; but

added, that he should return in a very short time, and then enjoy the happiness he languished for. This he inclosed in another to Mrs. Comode, with an entreaty that she would convey it as directed with all expedition and secrecy.

That necessary friend discharged the trust reposed in her with so much diligence, that on his coming home pretty early from Vauxhall, where he had been that evening with some company, he found a letter from Mrs. Comode, with another inclosed in it from Lady Hardy, in answer to his billet; the contents of both were as follow.

'TO JAMES JESSAMY, ESQ.

'HONOURED SIR,

'I Know not what you will find in the inclosed, though it was wrote at my house, and I saw it wetted with tears, falling from a pair of the most beautiful eyes in the world. I doubt not, however, but you will soon dry them up: it would, indeed, be a great pity, that two such charming persons should have any cause of complaint against each other. You will pardon this freedom, as it springs from my zeal for your future happiness, to which you may assure yourself I shall always be proud to contribute; being with the most profound respect, honoured Sir, your very faithful, and obsequious servant,

'B. COMODE.'

By this prelude he easily guessed what was the purport of the other, so was not surprised at the reproaches it contained.

'TO JAMES JESSAMY, ESQ.

'SIR,

'I Have just now received yours by the hands of Mrs. Comode; and Sir Thomas being abroad, I have the opportunity of disburdening myself of some part of that mingled astonishment and grief your cruel epistle has involved me in. Oh, Mr. Jessamy! how can you treat with such indifference a woman who loves you to distraction! Nothing but yourself could ever made me believe you were capable of behaving towards me in this manner. Is this the effect of all your



' your soft expressions? Is this the recompence of the fondness I have shewn to you? You find me ready to risk every thing for you, virtue, duty, reputation; nay, the dangers of eternal ruin are too weak to deter me from flying into your arms: should any other engagement, then, any business, any pleasure, have the power to snatch you from me? The excuses you make might have passed well enough with me when I was the ignorant unjudging Celia of the Woods; but time, reading, and observation, has now informed me better; and I know what a woman has a right to expect from the man who has a real passion for her; but I see you are insensible, ungrateful, yet still I love you; and, in spite of my resentment, cannot help wishing you a prosperous journey, and a safe return. You promise me that it shall be speedy; but I know not how to give credit to your words: the sooner you come back, however, the more you will be entitled to the forgiveness of your too much devoted

' CELIA.'

' P. S. Sir Thomas talks of staying in London all next winter. This would be joyful news to me indeed, if I could flatter myself with a belief you wished it so; but dare not hope too much, after the cruel disappointment you have given me.'

Till the receipt of this, Jemmy thought he had done with Lady Hardy till his return from Bedfordshire; but he now found himself under a necessity either of writing to her again, or of giving her cause to complain of his want of politeness as well as love.

With the pleasures of an amorous intrigue there will be always some mixture of fatigue. Jemmy loved to enjoy the one, but was not of a humour to endure much of the other, especially at present; and the tender reproaches and accusation in this letter seemed to him so many impertinences, which he would gladly have been able to dispense with himself from answering.

He was also obliged to write to Jenny that same night, in order to give her an account of the motive that carried him to Ham-Hall, at the very instant he was

about to gratify his inclinations in following her to Bath; but this was a task which he was far from feeling any reluctance in the performance of: so widely different are the effects of an honourable and a dishonourable passion!

This put me in mind of a very just, as well as beautiful, hieroglyphick, which I once saw among the paintings of Titian. The capital figures in the piece were two Cupids, the one coming down from Jupiter in a milk-white robe, his sparkling eyes wide open, and garlands in his hands, of fresh and un-mixed sweets, ready to crown the brows of every faithful votary: the other in a garment of a dusky yellow, spattered all over with black, seemed ascending from the earth; condensed vapours encircled his head, a bandage covered his eyes, and in his impure hands were wreaths of half-shed faded roses, thinly blended with thorns and prickly briars.

The ancients were extremely fond of expressing their designs by emblems; and this custom, which is as old as the Syriac and Chaldean, is still retained, throughout the greatest part of Europe, in the devices on their shields; so that, by looking on the escutcheon of any family, it is easy to know for what great action it was at first distinguished. And this, methinks, should remind those who wear them to act in such a manner as may render themselves worthy of the honours acquired for them by their progenitors; otherwise they are no more, according to the words of a late author, than—

' Dignify'd dregs of Britain's fallen race,  
' Honour's dishonour, and Fame's last disgrace.'

But this is not a work in which remonstrances are to be expected, nor perhaps would be greatly relished; I shall therefore leave the world such as it is, and, without being much of a prophet, one may say, is like to be, and return to the subject of my history.

Jemmy wrote a long letter to his dear Jenny; in which he acquainted her with all the particulars relating to the journey he was about to take, in compliance with Mr. Ellwood's invitations; and expressed the utmost discontent at an accident which hindered him from

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going to Bath so soon as he designed, and hoped to have done.

Having finished this, he set himself about answering the complaint of Lady Hardy; which he did in terms that have no occasion to be repeated, this letter having been already inserted in the fifth chapter of this volume; to which, if the reader takes the trouble to turn back, he will easily perceive to be the same that, by one of the caprices of fortune, fell into the hands of Jenny, and threw her into the condition there described.

Jemmy, in this point, acted like some careless apothecaries, who, by fixing wrong labels on the potions they prepare, frequently destroy one patient by what would have given relief to another: so he, having sealed both the letters before he wrote the superscription of either, directed that he designed for Jenny to Lady Hardy; and, by consequence, that for Lady Hardy to Jenny.

Quite ignorant of the mischief his inadvertency would occasion, he sent a servant with these dispatches; the one to be left at Mrs. Comode's, and the other at the post-house.

About five the next morning, the impatient Mr. Ellwood called on him in his travelling coach. What unwillingness soever he had testified for this expedition, he had taken care that every thing necessary for it should be prepared against the coming of his friend; so being entirely ready, they set out together immediately, attended by the servants belonging to both of them.

The coachman having orders to make all the speed he could, the horses being full of spirit, the road good, and no bad accident retarding the progress of their journey, they arrived at Ham-Hall that same evening; where it is not to be doubted but they were received by the intended bridegroom with all demonstrations imaginable of joy; of duty to the one, and affection to the other.

The wedding was not solemnized till two days after, on account of some writings which had waited for the old gentleman to sign, he having agreed to settle a pretty large estate upon his son at this marriage.

I will not trouble my reader with any description of these nuptials, though they were celebrated with as much mag-

nificence as the rank of the persons, and the place they were in, would admit of, without incurring the censure of vanity and ostentation. Jemmy staid there eight days, and was then obliged to tear himself away from his kind hosts, who would not have suffered him to part so soon but on the score of his impatience to be with Jenny, and the reasons he had given Mr. Ellwood for it.

#### C H A P. XXVIII.

TREATS OF SUCH THINGS AS THE AUTHOR IS PRETTY WELL CONVINCED, FROM A LONG SERIES OF OBSERVATIONS ON THE HUMAN MIND, WILL AFFORD MORE PLEASURE THAN OFFENCE, EVEN AMONG SOME OF THOSE WHO MOST AFFECT A CONTRARY SENSATION.

**H**OW strangely ignorant are we of our own hearts! How weak a dependance is there to be placed upon our best resolves! So true is this maxim of Mr. Dryden—

‘Men are but children of a larger growth;  
‘Our appetites as apt to change as theirs,  
‘And full as craving too, and full as vain.’

Who that has heard with what reluctance Jemmy went down to Bedfordshire, the insensibility he expressed for all the gaieties and pleasures of the nuptial feast, and the impatience he had to take his leave of friends who so much desired and valued his company; who, I say, that has been informed of all this, but would have thought that, according to the promise he had made to Jenny in his letter to her from Ham-Hall, he would have done little more in London than just pass through it in his way to Bath?

Yet see the swift vicissitude, and how suddenly the rolling tide of inclination is capable of overturning those designs which even we ourselves have believed were founded on the most solid basis, and impossible to be shaken!

But I will not detain the attention of my readers with any superfluous remarks of my own; the fact I am going to relate will be sufficient of itself to prove the uncertain state of human resolution, and may serve to abate the pride

pride of those who depend too much on their own strength of mind.

Jemmy, who, during his stay in the country, had his whole soul absorbed, as it were, in the thoughts of his dear and deserving Jenny, had no sooner reached London than his stability began to slacken; and, though he did not cease to love her with the same tenderness as ever, yet that burning impatience he had so lately felt to be with her became less fierce on something coming in his way which, till he saw, had almost slipped his memory.

He came to town in a post-chaise: but how his inclinations stood in regard to Lady Hardy, or whether he would have endeavoured to see her before he went to Bath, is altogether uncertain; something, however, happened, which turned the balance on her side, and reminded him both of her and the promise he had made in that letter, which he doubted not but she had received.

He alighted at a coffee-house, which he was accustomed to frequent very much. A stop of coaches happening to be in the street, he saw Sir Thomas and Lady Hardy in one of them, just opposite the door he was going to enter: he saw him too, and gave him a very significant look; which was all the salutation the place and company she was in would allow of.

A young amorous heart, I think, may, with some analogy, be compared to tinder, as it is ready to take fire from every spark that falls. How cool soever Jemmy might have been some moments before, this sight sufficed to revive the glowing embers of desire, and made him think it would not become him to neglect totally so kind and fair a creature.

He supped that night with some company he met at the coffee-house; but resolved to send to her, by the way of Mrs. Comode, the next morning. The impatience of the lady, nevertheless, prevented his intentions; and, on his coming home, he was presented with a letter, which, his people said, had been left for him by a porter above an hour before.

He opened it with some eagerness, not doubting from what hand it came; and found, as he had imagined, the cover from Mrs. Comode, with these lines.

‘ TO JAMES JESSAMY, ESQ.

‘ HONOURED SIR,

‘ I Send you what, I dare say, will be  
‘ a welcome present: your answer  
‘ to it, with the utmost expedition, is  
‘ requested to be left at my house, as  
‘ usual. I beg you, Sir, to believe that  
‘ I shall always be ready to oblige you  
‘ and the beautiful party to the utmost  
‘ of my poor power; being, with the  
‘ greatest respect, Sir, your most obe-  
‘ dient, and most humble servant, to  
‘ command,

‘ B. COMODE.’

The contents of the inclosed were as follow.

‘ TO JAMES JESSAMY, ESQ.

‘ SIR,

‘ I See you are in town, but am far  
‘ from assuring myself you have  
‘ any thoughts of me: the violence of  
‘ your passion for your charming Jen-  
‘ ny, and the hurry you are in to fol-  
‘ low her to Bath, may probably have  
‘ made you forget that there is such a  
‘ person in the world as myself. I send  
‘ this, therefore, to desire one more in-  
‘ terview, even though it should be to  
‘ take an everlasting leave. My happy  
‘ rival would not certainly regret your  
‘ giving that satisfaction to a woman  
‘ who loves you more than, perhaps,  
‘ she is capable of doing. Honour and  
‘ gratitude demand this from you; to  
‘ them I appeal, and shall commit my  
‘ cause.

‘ Since you went out of town, I have  
‘ another misfortune added to that of  
‘ having discovered your engagement  
‘ with Jenny: Mrs. Comode has let  
‘ her lodgings to a person intimately  
‘ acquainted with my husband; so it is  
‘ utterly impracticable for me to see  
‘ you there; and I am reduced, by this  
‘ piece of ill-luck, to desire you will  
‘ find out some more proper place for  
‘ our meeting. Whether it be at your  
‘ own house, or at that of any friend  
‘ in whom you can confide, is a matter  
‘ of indifference to me; only remem-  
‘ ber, that I will not venture to a ta-  
‘ vern, bagnio, or any such publick  
‘ place.

‘ As I am convinced your heart, if  
‘ not wholly lost, is at least divided, I  
‘ should have little joy in the continu-

‘ance of an intercourse so dangerous  
 ‘to myself, and so negligently pursued  
 ‘by you: you need not, therefore, be  
 ‘under any apprehensions of my perse-  
 ‘cuting you with a passion you seemed  
 ‘to have ceased desiring any farther  
 ‘proofs of. Happy should I be, in-  
 ‘deed, to find myself mistaken in what  
 ‘I have so much cause to fear. See  
 ‘me once more, however; and fix the  
 ‘yet uncertain fate of her who is, with  
 ‘too much sincerity, the unkind Jes-  
 ‘samy’s still affectionate and devoted

‘ CELIA.

‘ P. S. If you no longer have any  
 ‘love for me, let pity and good-  
 ‘nature for that you have inspired  
 ‘me with prevail on you not to  
 ‘keep me in suspense. I languish,  
 ‘I am distracted, till I receive  
 ‘your answer, with an appoint-  
 ‘ment where and when I shall  
 ‘have the opportunity of telling  
 ‘you all my soul is full of!’

This passionate epistle gave Jemmy much more pain than pleasure; not that he was either surprized or troubled at the knowledge he found he had of his engagement with Jenny. He was sensible a thousand accidents might reveal it to her; nor did he think she had any

business to interfere with the honourable addresses he made elsewhere; and, had she ever questioned him upon that subject, would not have evaded or denied the truth.

But it vexed him a good deal to find that the providing a place for their meeting was required of him. Whatever amorous intrigues he had hitherto been engaged in, had been accompanied with no difficulties; they had fallen in his way without any pains of his own; he had never been put to the trouble of forming any contrivances for the carrying them on; and the injunction now laid upon him was a thing no less new than disagreeable to him.

Never had he been so much puzzled in his whole life: he judged it highly inconvenient, for many reasons, to make an appointment with her at his own house; and, as she had excepted against all those he should readily have proposed, he might well be at a very great loss to whom he should apply on such an occasion.

What course he took in this perplexing dilemma, and what consequences attended this adventure, as well as the catastrophe of many others mentioned in this work, the reader, if he has patience to wait, will find fully set forth and explained in the succeeding volume.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.